

Germany's hotels The German Tribune

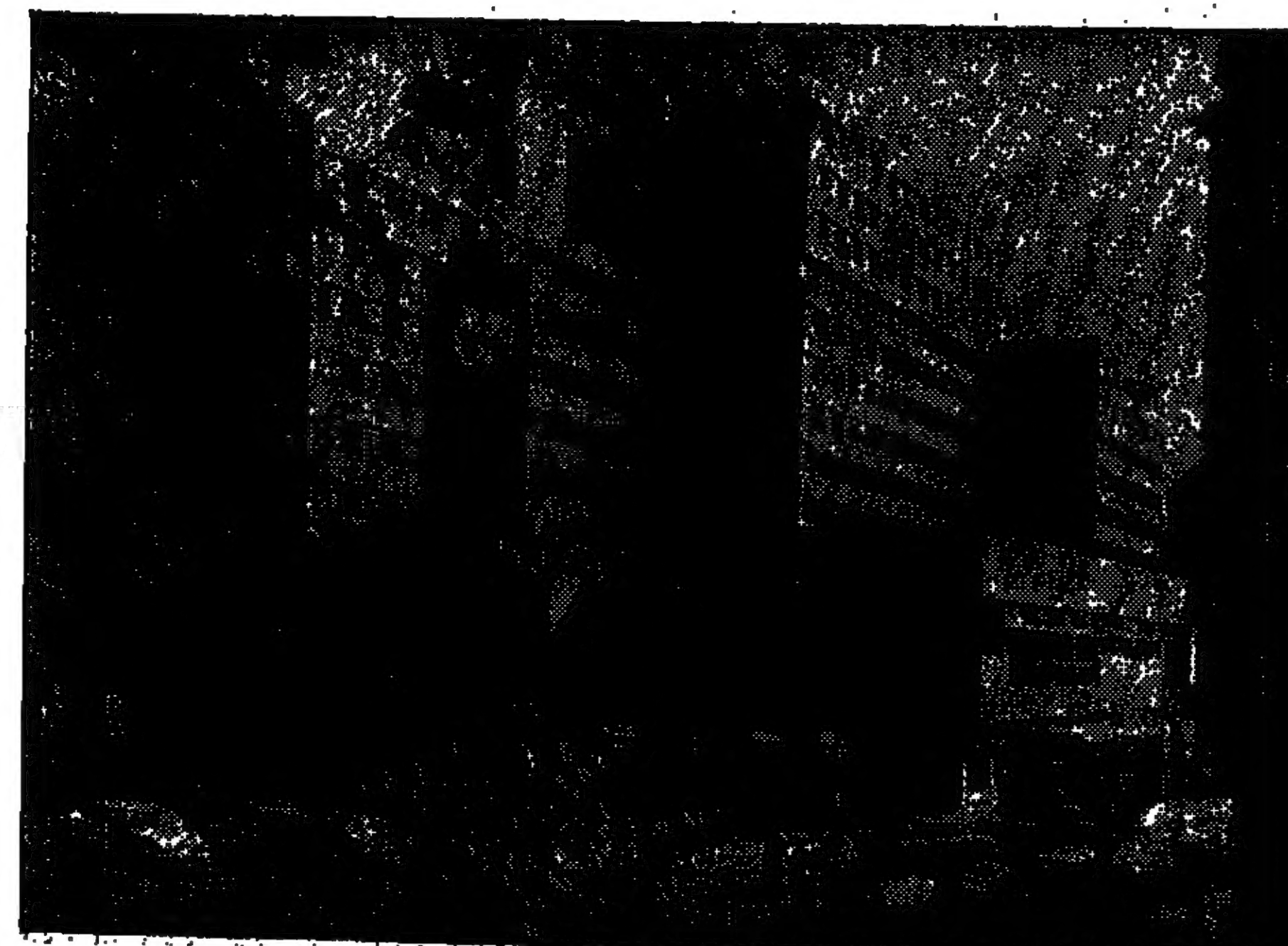
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Nowhere else in the world is the range of hotels, the hospitality so varied, so elegant, so pleasant as in Germany. You can stay in medieval surroundings or in tomorrow's world of the year 2000, whichever you please. Hotel after hotel - hotels with "stars" and "golden keys"; with half-timbered frames, castle walls, towers. Romantic

courtyards, gardens, wine-cellar, swimming pools. Hotels of glass and concrete and air-conditioned throughout. Just as you're used to in New York or Tokio or Mexico City. Hotels for business people, gourmets, tourists, for the romantically inclined and for those in love. Nowhere else in the world is the range of hospitality so varied.



Hotel Riesen, Miltenberg
 Munich

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS
 Beethovenstrasse 99, D-6000 Frankfurt

Haig keeps flag flying despite demonstrations

Secretary of State Haig's visit to West Berlin may have gone gratifyingly according to plan. He may have reiterated US guarantees for the city. There have been no violence at the anti-demonstration itself.

There is no getting away from the peaceful nature of the anti-American demonstration that accompanied his visit. It will remain a black mark in the history of the city that a high-ranking government official, representing one of the world's protecting powers, had to be subjected to direct contact with the people on the occasion of a politically irresponsible and undignified demonstration.

Protecting the visitor from a minority group had manoeuvred itself into an untenable position was one way of dealing with the situation.

At this time it would have been better to hold a pro-American rally and to let Mr Haig that the people of Berlin are not grateful.

No West Berliner who is old enough to remember can possibly forget that the Americans launched the airlift when they tried to starve the city into submission.

Americans were also to the fore when the Western powers whenever Moscow was called for in countering the Soviet Union.

They were largely responsible for ensuring that West Berlin retained its status as a free city.

Mr Haig said in Berlin that in defence of democracy America was also defending the city.

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the right to demonstrate - an argument that should have shamed his critics.

It remains to be seen, however, whether the US public opinion, after seeing footage of the demonstration on TV, shares the Secretary of State's view of the situation.

Did the journalists accompanying Mr Haig succeed in reassuring America that a minority took to the streets, whereas the majority of Berliners still realise how well to whom they owe their freedom?

The general sigh of relief breathed when the security measures proved to be worked is no guarantee as to the consequences of the demonstration

against Mr Haig in US day-to-day politics.

US opinion has lately taken to reacting extremely sensitively to anything that could even remotely be interpreted as anti-American in trend.

So one cannot, at least, rule out the possibility of the Berlin demonstration strengthening the hand of political forces in Washington that favour a US withdrawal from Europe.

There is certainly a powerful lobby in support of at least thinning out the US military presence in Berlin and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The circumstances that accompanied Secretary Haig's Berlin visit in no way detracted from its substantial political importance.

He said Berlin was a cornerstone of the US commitment in Europe and not only reaffirmed US government pledges on Berlin but also genuinely linked the fate of the city with the freedom of the Western world.

The demonstrative and direct inclusion of Bonn Foreign Minister Genscher in the programme of Mr Haig's Berlin visit likewise testified in no uncertain terms to Washington's determination to stress the ties between Berlin and the Federal Republic.

America is thus keen to reaffirm these ties and has no intention of allowing them either to be undermined or called into question.

Mr Haig also stressed US readiness to enter into arms control talks with the Soviet Union, thereby reiterating America's commitment to the December 1979 twofold Nato resolution.

Nato, it will be recalled, ruled that a military balance was essential if disarmament was to be achieved.

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Secretary of State Haig in West Berlin flanked by Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and the city's mayor, Richard von Weizsäcker. (Photo: dpa)

Schmidt and Spadolini find plenty to talk about

Frankfurt-Rundschau

Talks between a Bonn Chancellor and an Italian prime minister are often given disparaging references.

This month during Helmut Schmidt's visit to Rome, that sort of comment was quite inappropriate.

The international economic crisis, the heated arms debate and the tense situation in the Mediterranean would alone have sufficed to ensure a full agenda.

Since there were no points at issue between Bonn and Rome Helmut Schmidt took the opportunity of his visit to Italy to give Washington a piece of his mind.



A big agenda: Italian Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini (left) welcomes Chancellor Schmidt to Rome.

He told Mr Reagan more clearly than ever before that from the start he had not felt the manufacture of the neutron bomb was desirable at this stage.

Unfortunately neither he nor other US allies were asked for their views on the subject.

With an amazingly straightforward comment in the Italian political context the Chancellor's host, Premier Giovanni Spadolini, lent Herr Schmidt support by saying the United States had merely taken a national decision.

The decision to go ahead and manufacture the neutron device could not be taken to imply stationing in any European country.

Signor Spadolini, the first post-war Italian Prime Minister who has not been a Christian Democrat (he is a Republican), did not find it difficult to speak out in support of his visitor.

The decision on stationing Cruise missiles in Sicily has given him more than enough domestic trouble; he would prefer not to add to it by an attitude that could be deemed too pro-American.

Above all, Italy sees a prospect of Rome and Bonn coming much closer together in the near future, given the end of Herr Schmidt's close links with M. Giscard d'Estaing.

Italian politicians have viewed with unmistakable jealousy since the days of Konrad Adenauer the special relationship between Germany and France.

They now see a possibility of Italy taking over the position vacated by France, especially as President Mitterrand has made approaches to her in London on arms issues.

With their keen sense of symbolism the Italians are now noting that it cannot be long before the Channel-tunnel links Britain and France.

(Frankfurt-Rundschau, 14 September 1981)

WORLD AFFAIRS

The unacceptable consequences of a US withdrawal from Europe

Treaties fade, like roses and girls, when General de Gaulle lyrically explained his decision to set up France's *force de frappe*.

He did not believe Europe would always be able to rely on the US nuclear shield.

He also felt the United States would be unlikely for all time to maintain an entire army in France's operational glacia, the Federal Republic of Germany.

Historical experience made this seem utterly improbable, which was why he did not expect NATO last. So France logically chose to go its own way in classical armaments, as in spheres.

Has reality disproved de Gaulle and his mistrust? The Americans continue to maintain a military presence in Europe and President Reagan has, indirectly, even offered to reinforce Europe's nuclear defences.

The neutron bomb is to be manufactured in view of European security requirements. So the North Atlantic treaty has not faded — not yet, at any rate.

America's NATO allies in Europe are making it difficult for the United States to fulfill its pact obligations.

In Scandinavia the Danes and Norwegians are toying with the idea of a nuclear-free zone in Northern Europe proposed by the Soviet Union.

Belgium, Holland and, some way behind, the Federal Republic of Germany, are coming up with one reason after another for stalling on the military side of the twofold NATO missile modernisation resolution.

In its rejection of the neutron bomb Bonn leads the field of NATO opponents of current US military policy initiatives. What if the powers that be in Washington were to grow tired of backing a Europe that does not want to be defended by the United States?

Governments are not, of course, suddenly insulted if their decisions come in for criticism. Plain speaking is part and parcel of an alliance of democratic countries.

A military withdrawal from Europe by the United States would, moreover, be an event of historic importance; decisions of this kind are not taken, overnight.

Yet Europe does seem to have forgotten there has always been a latent tendency in the United States to pull out of Europe.

For years it was hard work warding off the attacks of Senator Mike Mansfield, who called, with astounding obstinacy for the withdrawal of several US divisions.

Bonn has had to pay many an extra dollar to ensure the continued presence

of operational US units. Enormous amounts were spent on arms purchases in the United States just to keep US forces in Germany.

Considerable diplomatic skill had time and again to be deployed to ward off bids by US military pundits to have the forward defence line moved further back.

This all seems to have been consigned to oblivion. It is assumed a matter of course that the Reagan administration will not review its Atlantic policy.

The stage has even been reached at which US goodwill to reinforce forward defences is no longer honoured.

US Army C-in-C General Meyer has suggested transferring east of the Rhine the US division stationed in the Bad Kreuznach and Mannheim region.

The Bonn government has only half-heartedly taken up the suggestion, partly because of cost.

But the main reason is that it is not in keeping with the Ostpolitik envisaged by left-wing Social Democrats.

Yet the forward transfer of US brigades would not only boost the NATO front's operational mobility. It would also be a strategic element in stabilising the entire pact.

There could hardly be a more convincing proof of US determination to defend Europe from well to the fore.

It would show the Soviet Union that the US Seventh Army and its USAF support and their families are voluntarily prepared to enlarge on their role as, so to speak, hostages in Germany.

Washington could hardly demonstrate more clearly that it is linking destiny with that of the Germans. Yet squabbles are the result, not appreciation.

In terms of psychological strategy Europe lacks sensitivity in dealing with the United States.

Can ideologies be imported? The Left has never had difficulties with the import-export trade in doctrines, as the worldwide export of the French Enlightenment shows.

Admittedly, many ideas of the French Revolution were exported on the point of Napoleon's bayonets.

Then there is the march of Marxism from Germany via Russia and China to the Third World.

But can right-wing theories be multinationalised? To be more precise and to the point, have America's neo-conservatives after their striking November 1980 success at the polls a lesson to teach their counterparts in the Federal Republic of Germany?

Do US neo-conservatives have a secret that will prove equally effective for the German Christian Democrats, condemned to the Opposition benches in Bonn for the past 12 years?

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation, an organisation closely linked to the Christian Democrats, has just held a kind of bilateral market research gathering in Bonn.

Politicians, gurus and academics came in substantial numbers from both sides of the Atlantic.

The Germans were led by Helmut Kohl, Kurt Biedenkopf and Walther Leisler Kiep, the Americans by Richard Allen, President Reagan's security adviser, and neo-conservative standard-bearers such as Irving Kristol and Norman Podhoretz.

They failed to arrive at a joint concept. Despite ideological sympathies, conditions in the two countries vary too widely. Even intellectual soulmates are bound to admit that America and Europe have drifted apart in recent years.

Besides, mutual soundings soon showed that American neo-conservatives are not really conservative and German conservatives are not really neo.

By virtue of a startling paradox the US conservatives share a sense of being altogether revolutionary. After Mr Reagan's landslide victory at the polls they no longer saw themselves as a warlike sect.

Instead, they consider themselves historic victors over the moloch of the state that had been on the advance for the past 40 years.

Reagan's not a doctrine for export

What they want is not a realignment but a redistribution of power: from state to society, from institutions to individuals, from the Federal government to state governments.

And they want action, not peace and quiet, as one of their prophets put it. What German conservative could say that of either himself or his party?

Maybe America does have the edge over Europe in that tradition and revolution have never been irreconcilably opposed to each other in the New World.

The War of Independence was not a Jacobin uprising against Britain but a war over accrued rights.

The founding fathers built their New Jerusalem as a revolutionary structure, yet as the city of their ancestors.

And to this day their descendants feel sure such acts of creation can be repeated every four or eight years, be the banner that of President Kennedy's New Frontier, President Johnson's New Society or President Reagan's New Beginning.

As for the Germans, they have made failures of any revolutions they may have aimed at, yet in this century alone they have been through more revolutions than other nations have ever experienced.

There has been the transition from Wilhelmian Germany to Weimar and from Hitler to Bonn (and East Berlin). There have also been two currency "reforms" that have thoroughly shaken the social set-up.

In Germany too many systems have gone with the wind. Small wonder next to no-one (be they moderate left- or moderate right-wingers) wants to overstep the current apple cart!

German politicians of a conservative persuasion, be they neo or paleo, CDU or SPD, envisage change as meaning that almost everything remains the way it is.

They preach liberalism, but with a fair amount of benevolent intervention; the

advocate the market economy, but social free-market economy. Above all, they must live with the orical experiences that differ from those of their fellow-conservatives across the Atlantic.

In the wake of the second World War, lasting from 1914 to 1945 (in keeping with most German and, indeed, with most European, come to appreciate how happy they are in a corner backed by US support.

That was why the Christian Democrats of the Bonn galaxy responded with embarrassment to the jubilation to the international monetary sentiment of US neo-conservatives.

They were even less elated when guests set about not only singing praises of the new American nation, but also encouraging the German show signs of greater national pride.

Had the Americans forgotten the second and every subsequent child reared down.

SPD resistance to touching upon employment benefits flagged in the FDP's unyielding stand.

The Social Democrats were not ready to give in completely, so the FDP was shelved.

But there is another side to this coin: FDP will not be able to repeat the dissatisfaction among Social Democratic bodies ranging from the elementary party all the way to SPD chapters has reached its climax.

The grassroots feeling is that they are governing with the FDP but are being governed by it. They would shed no tear at a breakdown of the coalition even that meant manning the opposition benches for years to come.

But the SPD leadership sees it differently. Government responsibility has a hold importance for them: it means they can put into action at least some

of the FDP's demands for the introduction of "voluntary days" for the payment of wages in case of unemployment.

What the FDP considered necessary and possible was beyond the threshold of the SPD.

At that point, the Free Democrats broke on just about every issue: of an employment programme was shelved.

Cost cuts in the health system made at the expense of the patients rather than the pharmacists, insurance companies and doctors, increases were shunted off to such sectors as tobacco, liquor and

engage while child allowances for second and every subsequent child were pared down.

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HOME AFFAIRS

Influences holding coalition together prevail

SPD/FDP coalition has survived the internal wrangling over the financial arrangements for next

there are clear symptoms of an illness. The break up would have happened if either partner

SPD is in the weaker position as it can only stay in power with the help of the FDP. The latter has the advantage: joining the CDU/CSU, where it would be welcome.

That is the Liberals' trump card against the SPD.

It was clearly in evidence in the tug-of-war over social security

was not budgetary details but the age of trend in social policy" as claimed by Foreign Minister Hans-

High Genscher and Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff (both FDP) brought the coalition to the brink.

the implementation of the Liberals' would have meant no more and no less than the Social Democrats abandoning their creed and dismantling the wel-

Not even Chancellor Helmut Schmidt had his somewhat underdeveloped So-

Democratic heart could have agreed that the FDP was exactly along the line

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Social Democratic ideas; and it is their only stick with which to discipline unruly comrades who are determined to run their heads against the coalition wall on issues ranging from security to economic policy.

In fact, the SPD has even dug up the old spectre of a Kohl-Strauss government that would put the axe to the social security system.

And as if this were not enough, the conservatives would also mean an "about-face in our divided Germany's foreign and security policy" (Wehner).

The SPD thus still has reason to permit itself to be blackmailed by the Free Democrats.

But the Liberals had an opportunity during the budget tug-of-war to go beyond the point that marks the absolute limit for the SPD.

The Social Democrats were determined not to touch upon sick pay because that is the sort of measure that would have made the trade unions man the barricades. The Free Democrats backedpedalled. This shows that:

• The FDP still prefers this coalition to a smoother one with the conservatives.

• The reason: the party believes that this is a more popular stance with the electorate.

• The coalition will not fall simply because the FDP sticks to its guns — as long as there is no major shift in electoral attitude.

As a result, it is not only Genscher who is prepared to continue the coalition until 1984.

Wehner's bogeyman, Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff, is another.

Though Lambsdorff seems more prepared to permit the coalition to founder on specific issues than does Genscher, who puts more stock by tactical moves on behalf of his party, the economic affairs minister knows that his star would be less brilliant in a Kohl-Genscher cabinet.

It is part of Genscher's tactics to prevent the impression that it was the Free Democrats who opted out of the coalition with the SPD because that would cause considerable turbulence in his own party should the contingency arise.

He was given a foretaste of this when

his party's left wing threatened to withhold their loyalty from him should the Bonn coalition break up due to FDP. As Genscher sees it, it must be clearly visible for all that the responsibility for a break up rests solely with the SPD. But even this sort of tactics is not watertight. For one thing, the FDP is in danger of overestimating the extent to which the Social Democrats will permit themselves to be blackmailed, as was borne out with the sick pay issue. Moreover, the constant shelving of disputed issues and the papering over of cracks in the common policy could create a situation in which the SPD, for internal party reasons, will find itself in a vortex into which the Liberals could be drawn.

The Euromissile debate, which has long divided the SPD and still keeps simmering among FDP ranks despite the party resolution of last May, could easily prove the detonator. Therefore, a break would have to be made before this arises.

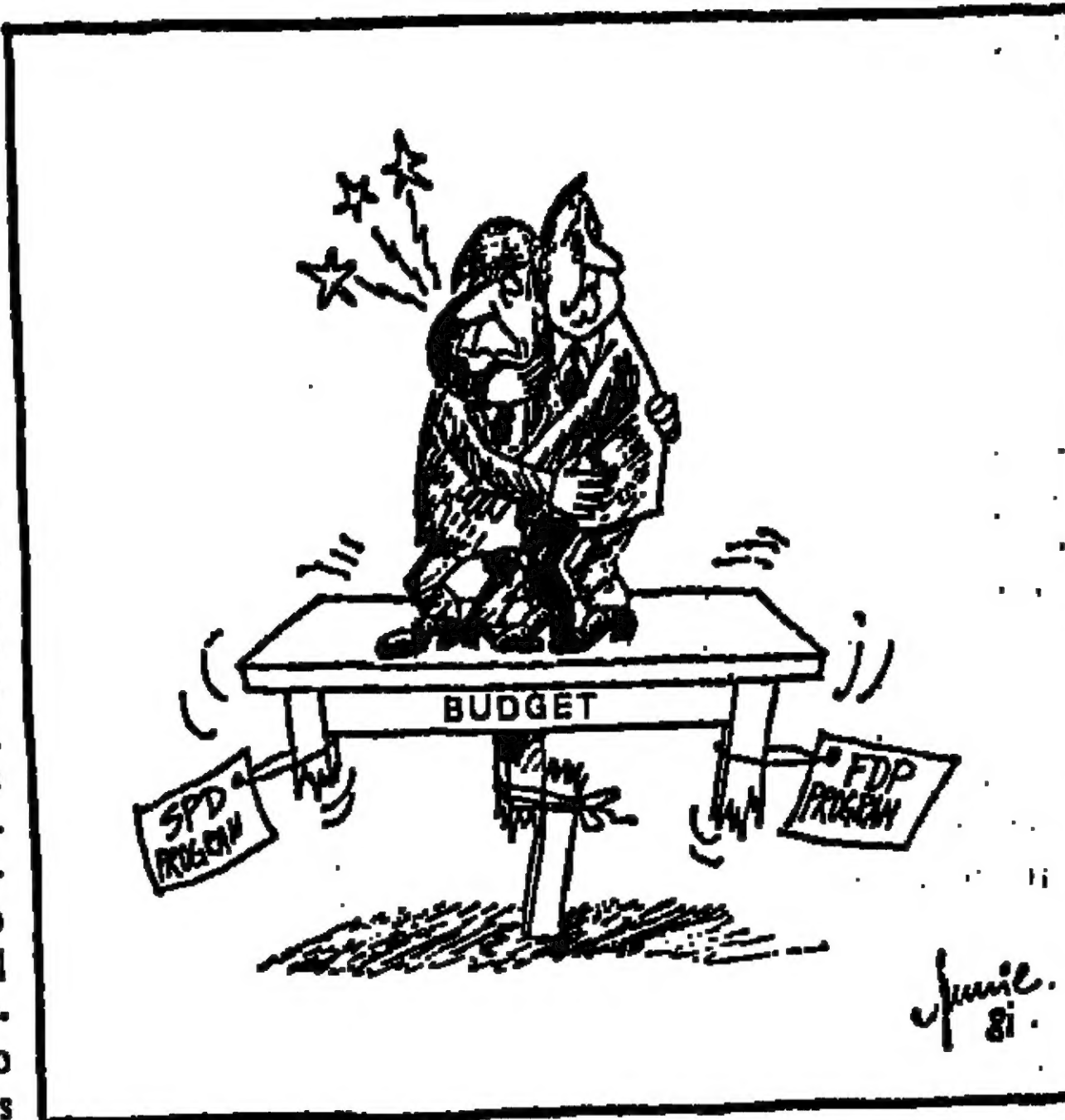
In any event, Genscher makes a point of cultivating the *Götterdämmerung* mood in Bonn. Regardless whether the coalition weathers the time until 1984 or whether the split comes soon, the FDP must at any time be in a position to switch from one partner to another and find the necessary party approval.

The tough horse trading over the budget served exactly this purpose. To think of the improbable as probable takes the wind out of the sails of the FDP left wing opposition to a coalition offer to the conservatives.

But as long as the coalition with the Social Democrats helps the FDP curry favour with the voters the conservatives might as well forget about any coalition offer to the Liberals.

But super tactician Genscher could well have missed the most opportune moment to change horses and still be able to justify this with the party's liberal principles.

Walter Bajohr
(Rheinische Merkur/Christ und Welt, 11 September 1981)



(Cartoon: Muesli/Frankfurter Rundschau)

The Opposition assesses its own role

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Criticism, control and alternatives are the key words CDU Floor Leader Helmut Kohl describes the way the opposition understands its function.

The alternative in this case is a DM12bn budgetary saving concept, the details of which are still kept under wraps by the conservatives.

Even so, the opposition has a tough stand with its economising proposals for the 1982 Bonn budget.

The coalition parties also believed that it would be easy to find a compromise; but the final outcome is known to all. In the final analysis, no definite agreement is in sight. The situation is similar where the CDU/CSU is concerned.

The response to the package presented by the CDU budgetary experts is reminiscent of bad examples from former days.

The conservatives' claim to being a populist party is a legacy to which it is hard to do justice. So far, they have come up with a great many opinions but no uniform stand.

The middle class and small and medium business seem to favour a free rather than a social market economy and are unwilling to stop short of pruning the social security laws just as they are unwilling to stop short of demanding that some public spending be turned over to the private sector.

And then there are the militant social affairs committees of the CDU which once more fear that they will become the butt as the party's social appendage.

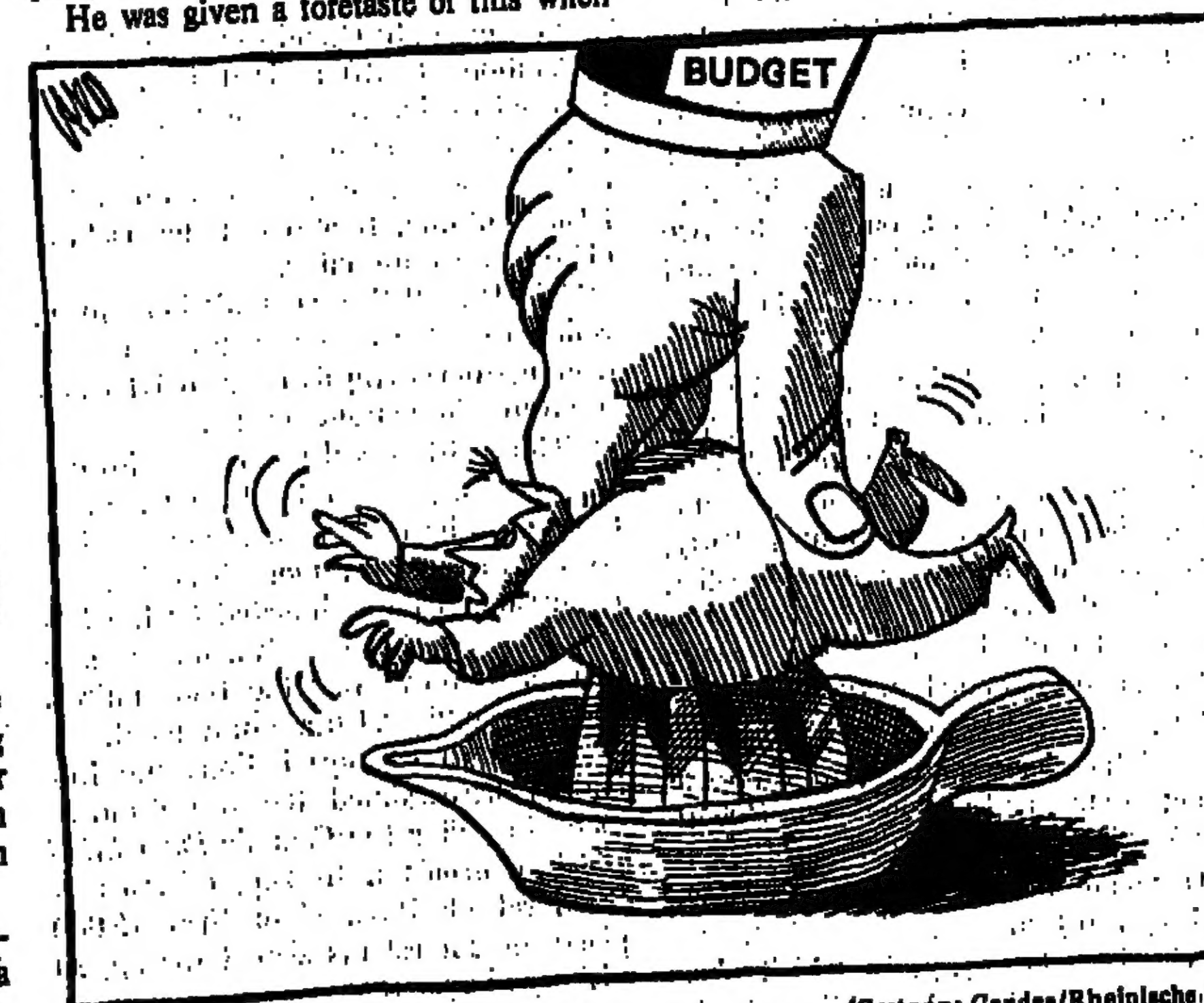
In any event, the tone that prevails in the CDU grouping around Norbert Blum indicates that the party, both in and out of parliament, will have to weather tough disputes before it can come up with a cohesive recipe.

Granted, it is not easy for the CDU and CSU to come up with an austerity concept that will bear their handwriting.

The Free Democrats — and this is borne out by their swift approval of the cabinet-decisions — have every right to consider themselves the true conductors of the Bonn orchestra.

The conservatives now have to take

Continued on page 4



(Cartoon: Candès/Rheinische Post)

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■ TRADE

Opec, EEC, crucial to North-South equation

The 22 nations taking part in next month's North-South summit in Mexico will enter the talks with more modest ambitions than originally envisaged.

This is because the foreign ministers' meeting which laid the groundwork decided that there would be no firm agenda.

So the summit will be little more than an exchange of ideas from a mixed and incomplete selection of countries.

However, it is thought that this will still be better than a genuine world summit which would run the risk of getting bogged down in semantics.

That the summit is to take place at all is largely due to the efforts of Willy Brandt, who was chairman of the North-South Commission; Austria's Chancellor, Bruno Kreisky; and Mexico's President, José Lopez Portillo.

They have spent 18 months organising the framework.

The East Bloc will be conspicuously absent because Moscow turned down the invitation — after some hesitation.

Of the 22 nations, eight are industrialised (three EEC: Austria, Britain, France, Japan, Sweden, the United States; Canada and the Federal Republic of Germany).

Five are members of Opec: Algeria, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

The balance comprises Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Guyana, India, Ivory Coast, the Philippines, Tanzania and Yugoslavia.

Opec and the EEC are the two pivotal points of the North-South dialogue. In fact, it was the success of the oil-producing developing countries in the Opec cartel in 1973/74, when they gained the upper hand over the all-powerful industrial nations that brought about the North-South dialogue in 1974.

At the time, the developing nations demanded in the UN that a New International Economic Order be drafted in which the industrial nations would no longer dictate commodity prices, using demand as a power instrument.

One of the main Third World demands since 1974 has been the establishment of an international fund (Stabex) to stabilise commodity prices. These have a major effect on the economic position and the standard of living of many, though far from all, developing countries.

Rather similar to that of the EEC's Common Agricultural Policy, Stabex funds were to be used to stockpile raw materials in times of low demand.

International agreement on the establishment of such a fund was reached in 1980. But the industrial countries prevailed inasmuch as it was agreed that for the 20 or so raw materials included in the system international agreements between buyer and supplier countries would have to be negotiated.

The EEC's key role in the North-South dialogue is fourfold. It rests on the 1973 Lomé Convention (originally based on the association agreements with the former colonies of the initial EEC countries and later extended to include almost all developing nations of the Pacific, Black Africa and the Caribbean) which for the first time provided for a stabilisation fund for the raw materials export earnings of the ACP coun-

tries coupled with development aid and sweeping trade preferences.

The EEC also provides financial aid and trade preferences for Mediterranean countries ranging from Morocco to Jordan.

This comprehensive network of agreements (which even include provisions on investment protection and regular conferences for the resolution of conflicts) also encompasses such oil-producing countries as Nigeria and Algeria but the emphasis is on the 33 least developed countries (LDCs).

Forty per cent of the exports of these LDCs goes to the EEC, which also provides 35 per cent of their imports and 50 per cent of their development aid.

Apart from firm agreements, trade preferences and development aid, the importance of this EEC policy lies in its being unencumbered by ideology.

Ethiopia is treated like any other Lomé partner, despite its close ties with the Soviet Union. In other words, it receives the same treatment as pro-Western Senegal.

It is in keeping with this policy that changes of regime (as happened in Chad, Somalia and some other countries) therefore in no way affect the position of the nation concerned.

US President Ronald Reagan now envisages a similar model for the Caribbean countries (almost all of which are part of the Lomé Convention).

But if this were to be realised he would have to depart from his principle of differentiating between "good" (pro-Western) and "evil" (pro-Eastern) developing countries.

The very fact, however, that Washington is contemplating such a move and

that Japan recently concluded a cooperation agreement with South Korea along the lines of the EEC Mediterranean agreement bears witness to the pressure that emanates from the EEC on the other major industrial powers.

Japan, the Community's powerful industrial competitor, has long evaded providing development aid — as opposed to poor China, whose development aid, though small in terms of money, has gained it considerable influence at Moscow's expense, especially in Africa.

It is doubtful whether the East Bloc will be able to stay aloof from the North-South dialogue in the long run.

Its non-military development aid lags far behind the aid provided by the democratic countries of Europe and one-sidedly favours the so-called socialist developing countries.

Moscow's long hesitation before turning down the invitation to the Cancun summit seems to indicate that the Kremlin leaders are having second thoughts.

But there is yet another reason for the EEC's key role. Some EEC governments, above all Bonn, were originally opposed to Third World demands for a New International Economic Order and were not prepared to meet them even a small part of the way.

They long underestimated the cohesion of the developing countries and the unity that existed between the rich Opec nations and the poor LDCs. They also underestimated the solidarity between Lomé partners, whose needs were satisfied, and the other Third World countries.

It was above all former Economic Affairs Minister Hans Friderichs and his successor and fellow Free Democrat Count Lambsdorff who never tired of telling: "International conferences that market economy was the only salvation for the Third World."

The same applies to Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, who took a long time to learn.

Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 September 1981)

Well-oiled EFTA wheels keep order book pages turning

There is contrast between the disputes within the European Community and the EEC's close and smooth relations with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries, Austria, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

Whatever problems do arise in the Community's ties with EFTA are always settled quietly and behind the scenes through diplomatic channels.

The Committee of EEC Ambassadors has said in its latest annual report that the Community's free trade agreement with the EFTA countries "functioned to the full satisfaction of both sides."

According to the report, 60 per cent of EFTA foreign trade is accounted for by the EEC. EFTA, on the other hand, accounts for 25 per cent of the Community's foreign trade (exports and imports).

The 1972 free trade agreements that were made between EFTA and the EEC when Britain and Denmark left EFTA and joined the Community were instrumental in this positive development that was marked by the intensification of trade relations through bilateral tariff reductions for industrial goods.

Since the beginning of this year, when Greece joined the Community, Athens and the EFTA have been reducing tariffs gradually.

The free trade agreements for industrial goods have meanwhile been augmented to include agricultural products.

There have been agreements with Austria for quality wines and cheese. Vienna has reserved the right to supply the EEC with mutton and goat meat by agreeing to voluntary self-restrictions after the EEC market system came into effect.

Agreements mutually to open markets for processed foods, animal feed, cheese, powdered milk and fruit have been concluded with Switzerland. Similar agreements have been signed with Scandinavia EFTA countries for fish products and mutual fishing rights (though the latter does not apply to Iceland).

Due to the steel crisis in the Community, the steel-producing EFTA countries have agreed to voluntary export restrictions.

In the field of scientific and technological cooperation there are the COST project providing for joint financing.

Switzerland has joined the EEC information computer network (Europet). Sweden and Finland are now negotiating membership of Euronet, and Austria is also said to be interested.

There is a regular information exchange on environmental protection

Club-of-three idea gets mixed reaction

There has been a mixed reaction to suggestions that the USA, Japan and the EEC hold regular trade negotiations.

The idea is not new, but at the economic summit in Ottawa in July it was revived.

Now, Washington's roving ambassador, Bill Brock, has already made invitations for a session to discuss the idea in New York on October 12.

Mr Brock met with some opposition in Tokyo, but the Europeans are guarded.

Main argument against it would carry connotations of a club.

The objective is quite clear: Americans are concerned. The USA-Japan-EEC is the hub of the trade, accounting for the lion's share of international trade in industrial goods.

The volume of trade and its importance for the individual nations are nomies naturally makes for intense competition. The problems of the one automatically affect the others as well.

Right now, Americans and Europeans have one common problem: an aggressive export policy on the one hand, and on the other, its sealing-off of own market to prevent imports.

This has resulted in high trade frictions with Japan. (America reached a record monthly deficit of \$1.35bn in July).

According to official figures, the US expects a trade surplus of \$8bn in 1981 (which ends on 31 March). Private estimates speak of \$22bn.

These imbalances, together with the fact that the United States has likened to a developing country in trade with Japan (America supplies and raw materials and buys Japanese goods), have bolstered demands for protectionist measures.

Washington has already succeeded in prevailing on Japan to impose export restrictions for its auto exports to the USA. But since this has led to a tension in Europe, Washington has had to time the time has come to hold the visaged tripartite consultations.

But the response has been lukewarm. Japan's Industries Minister Tanaka agreed in principle without setting a date.

Although the Japanese fear that they will be treated as scapegoats in such a tripartite consultation, they prefer to play for time rather than risk the Americans by putting up resistance.

Though a number of European countries prove of the US initiative, the attitude in Brussels is marked by restraint because consultations with Japan and the United States already exist in the framework of Gatt, which are in progress on a bilateral and lateral basis.

Tripartite consultations, however, would not only add to the complexity they would also smack of a "club" that must make outsiders miserable.

Canada, for example, is highly sceptical about its exclusion.

In view of the fact that Japan has always been of particular interest to the EEC because of their function as transit countries for traffic between Japan and Italy.

negotiations are now in progress on a tripartite participation by the EEC in construction of the Austria Innsbruck autobahn.

Brussels expects Vienna to reduce tolls for commercial vehicles.

BERLIN RADIO SHOW

Stereo sound on TV full of possibilities, but...

MORGEN

phonetic sound in television is the most important novelty shown at the Funkausstellung since the invention of colour TV in 1967, says the show.

It remains to be seen whether the public will be enchanted enough by the idea to warrant the trade's optimistic hopes.

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ing systems, ARD and ZDF, have made a few programmes in stereo to familiarise the public with it, but they are unlikely to broadcast these programmes as a matter of routine.

Also the technical facilities have not yet been provided by the postal authority, and so far only about two-thirds of the TV towers are equipped to relay the programmes.

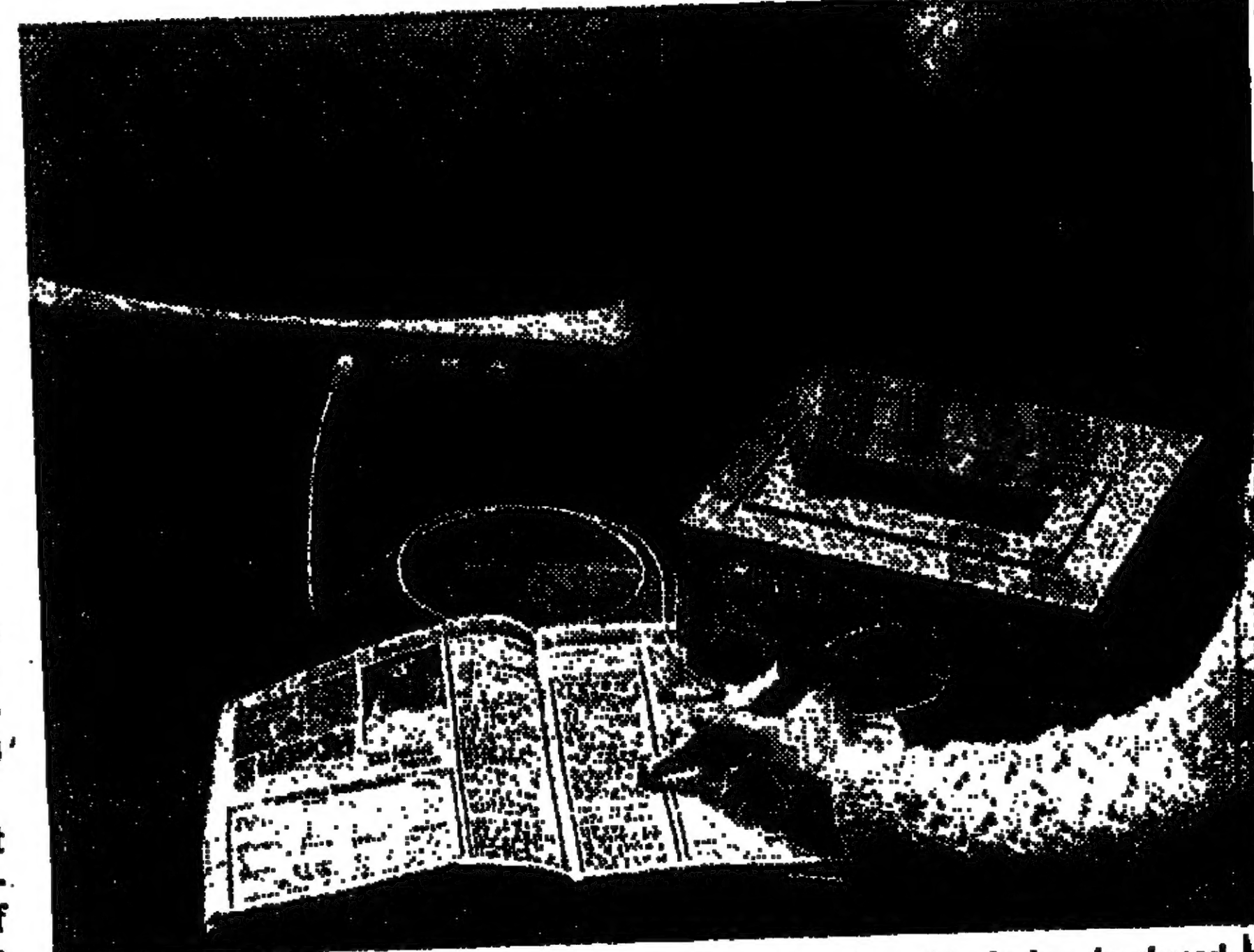
Stereo TV will therefore gain ground very gradually as today's sets become obsolete and have to be replaced.

However, the introduction of stereo is bound to be generally welcomed. The sound in TV has up to now been neglected in favour of the picture.

Detractors could, of course, say that if stereo TV is the highlight of this year's Funkausstellung then the show is marked by few innovations.

But such criticism would fall short of doing justice to the wide range of technical novelties presented by over 300 exhibitors, more than half of them foreign.

True, this year's show has not come up with any major inventions and technological breakthroughs (there is hardly anything left to invent in this field), but it shows a clear trend towards micro-electronics and the mass production of a



Pre-programming a video-recorder is now possible using this device developed by Blaupunkt involving special TV programme pages and pen with electronic beam. (Photo: Walter Beyer)

wide range of goods extending from large screen video projectors all the way to mini pocket radios — and all this in a greatly improved quality.

Take portable radios. With or without cassette recorders, mono or stereo, designed to receive regional or global broadcasts — there is something for everybody at the show.

What is new is the fact that these sets provide stereo sound with built-in speakers without being as big as a trunk. A technical trick has enabled manufacturers to provide first-class stereophonic sound despite the fact that the speakers are so close together.

These small portable sets now have high fidelity and by the same token stationary hi-fi sets at home can now take up the minimum of space. In the next

couple of years, miniaturisation will progress to the point where there will hardly be any difference in size between a portable and stationary set.

And people who cannot cope with the many dials, levers and buttons in which hi-fi sets usually abound will be able to operate their sets by twiddling a single button and so switching from hi-fi to stereo or cassette or record.

And for those who fear that by pushing or twiddling this single button they could still do something wrong there is the hi-fi set that responds to the spoken word.

This has been achieved by a small computer that reacts to such commands as "on", "off", "louder", "softer", "FM" or "cassette".

(Mannheimer Morgen, 4 September 1981)

New sets ready but not the telecasters

arguments and market forecasts, but not prices.

The appreciation of the dollar and technical development are taking their toll. Thus, for instance, Philips' development cost for its Video 2000 was about DM500m — money that still has to be earned through sales.

And next year the system will be getting competition from its own company through the video record that will use a laser beam as a pickup.

In the audio sector (hi-fi, radios, records, tapes and cassettes) which accounts for more than 50 per cent of sales, there are some genuine novelties on show in Berlin, but they are not yet for sale.

Among these novelties is the new CD disc, which is to be sold to the public starting from the end of next year.

The disc, with its diameter of about four inches, plays for 60 minutes and its sound quality is excellent. In addition, it is tough enough to be handled by children.

Since the new disc uses a laser sound pickup, its life expectancy is unlimited.

The disc was originally invented by Philips and then developed for mass production in a cooperation deal with Sony (Japan).

But since Sony (which anticipates sales worth DM700m in Germany alone) is not the only Japanese company interested in the new disc — the electronic giant Matsushita with its brand names Technics, Panasonic and National also wants to adopt the CD system — the new disc stands a good chance of acquiring standard status internationally.

There is a trend that makes the like separating audio and video systems indistinguishable, and this could prove important in the long run.

Some companies offer audio-video centres in which the screen only has the function of a monitor. The TV part is separate, as is the sound part.

This means that TV and video recorder can be coupled with a hi-fi system. The price tag for such centres is in excess of DM10,000. But even so, the makers expect healthy sales.

The chairman of the Electronics Association, said in Berlin that prospects were excellent. He pointed out that the electronics market, whose annual sales in the 1960s had stagnated at about DM2.5bn, experienced a sales explosion when new colour TV sets and cassettes hit the market in the 1970s and sales quadrupled.

The industry now pins its hopes on the video recorder, the CD disc and, perhaps, the video camera.

The fact that these novelties were shown in Berlin but not yet offered for sale makes this year's Funkausstellung a transition show.

Michael Hammer

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 September 1981)

German firms have stolen a march on their competitors from the Far East in developing television sets that can receive sound in stereo.

But the national television and radio network, ARD, does not intend to take advantage of this immediately.

It will be 1984 before stereo TV is introduced.

However, viewers are being given a foretaste at the 33rd Funkausstellung in Berlin, where all the German makers are showing their stereo TV sets.

Three hundred and 32 companies from 27 countries are represented in 23 exhibition halls.

Entertainment electronics accounted for sales worth DM12bn last year.

In the first eight months of this year, the figure had only reached DM6bn, so a boost is needed in the final four months if last year's figures are to be reached, as had been predicted.

The TV set is still the best seller in the industry. And once more, at this year's show, TV is the central attraction.

Stereo TV sales are expected to rise only slowly (they will retail at between DM200 and DM500 more than conventional sets) and the main sales hopes rest with video recorders.

Here, the show has come up with some innovations such as easier handling through built-in microprocessors and better programming facilities.

The struggle for market shares between the three competing systems (VHS, Beta and Video 2000) is in full swing.

Weapons in the battle are technical

robot accompanies the visitor through the show and enables him to hear songs of music. (Photo: dpa)

speaker and for example, Turkish folk music.

While colour TV has the market, and multi-soundtrack TV are likewise the exception rather than the rule.

The reason is that current sets can be adapted.

In addition, the two major broadcast

Continued from page 6

Switzerland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Similar provisions exist on content protection with Sweden and Norway (oil and natural gas); on development aid with Austria (steel and paper).

Cooperation in the transport sector is a special chapter. Switzerland and Austria have always been of particular interest to the EEC because of their function as transit countries for traffic between Germany and Italy.

negotiations are now in progress on a tripartite participation by the EEC in construction of the Austria Innsbruck autobahn.

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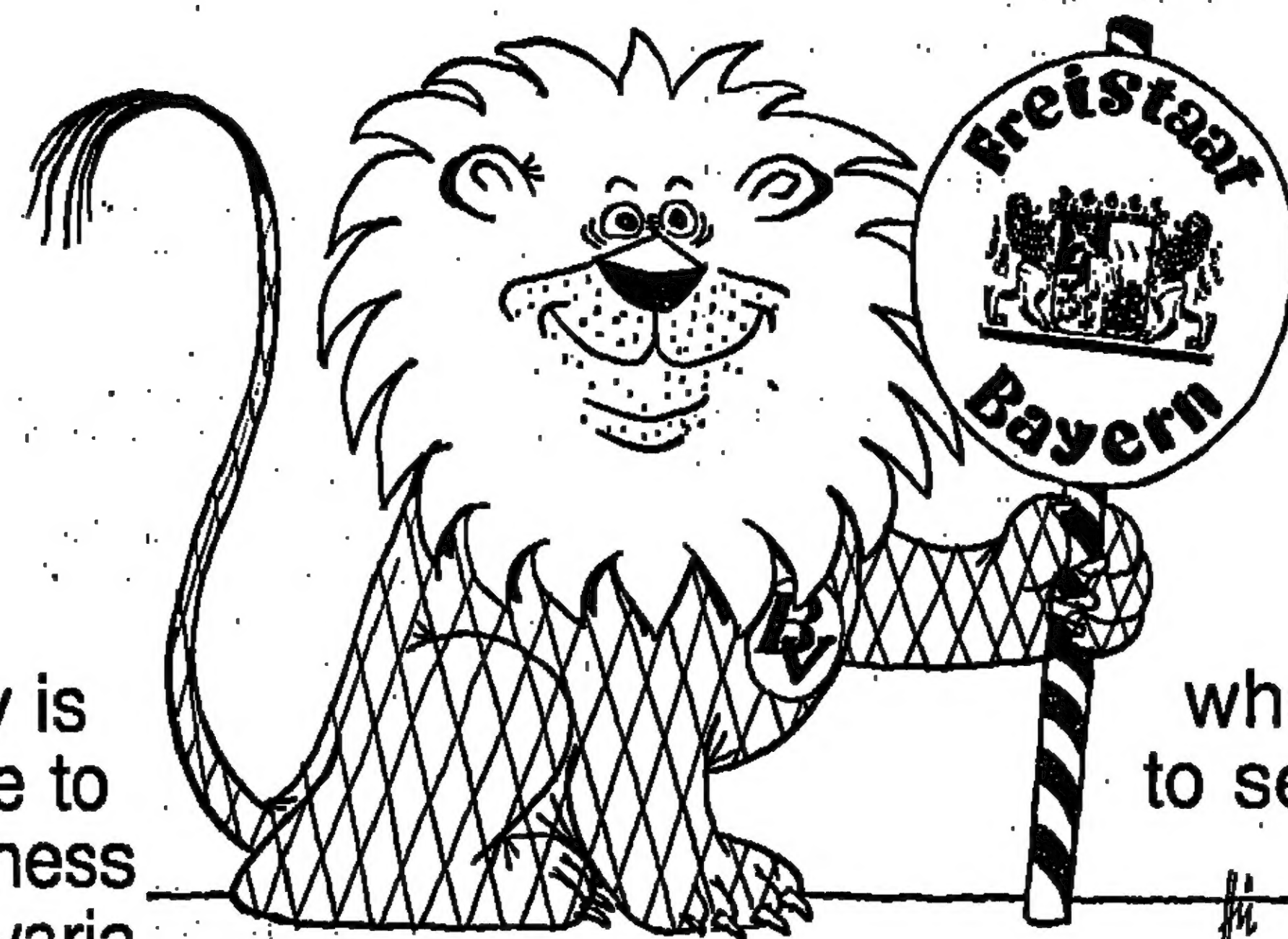
Erich Hauser

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 4 September 1981)

(Mannheimer Morgen, 4 September 1981)

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 9 September 1981)

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RESEARCH

Computers improve daily weather forecasts



Weather forecasting has been improved by the use of computers, and meteorological satellites. Forecast users can link up with a computer network which provides constantly updated forecasts.

It was how delays and inaccuracies in TV and TV forecasts were being eliminated, according to an American delegate to meteorologists' conference in Hamburg last month.

Only 700 meteorologists from 37 countries met for a fortnight. Main subjects were long-term weather forecasts and climate trends.

What features does the climate consist of? How does it change? How does one put out climate models given the data available nowadays?

The congress was attended mainly by meteorologists from Western Europe and America, but there were also weather men from the Soviet Union and the Arab Bloc, from Arab and Afro-Asian countries and even China.

By international standards German weather forecasts have nothing to be ashamed of. The Scientific Research Association has concentrated project work in this sector.

Climate models, the interaction between oceans and the atmosphere and atmospheric physics are being probed at the Max Planck Meteorological Institute in Hamburg.

These were subjects rated particularly important at the Hamburg congress. Extensively discussed, for instance, traces of and other substances in the atmosphere.

How exactly could one determine the origin and movements of minute quantities of gas and suspended particles in the atmosphere?

They often cause atmospheric pollution of the environment, but their influence on climate developments is also investigated over and above immediate interest in the consequences of pollution.

Special attention is given to changes in the ozone layer by spray can gas and movements in the upper atmosphere and to the increasing quantity of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Weather men have lately devoted increasing attention to the oceans. Resistance by the surface waters of the oceans is regarded as a crucial factor in the partial intake of carbon dioxide into the water of the seven seas.

The steady increase in carbon dioxide output is due to the increasing use of fossil fuels such as coal, wood, natural gas and, of course, petroleum.

Part of this carbon dioxide is absorbed by the oceans but little is known in detail about the processes involved.

Climatologists are currently taking a detailed look at data collected in bygone centuries. They hope to outline long-term trends in greater detail than has previously been possible.

More is known about these trends but views still differ considerably on whether, for instance, there could be a recurrence of the Ice Age in currently temperate zones.

German and American meteorologists held different views on the carbon dioxide problem. The Americans were worried about the possibility of climate changes being brought about by human activity, especially the continual increase in fossil fuel utilisation. The Germans were less alarmed.

Reduced use of fossil fuels recommended

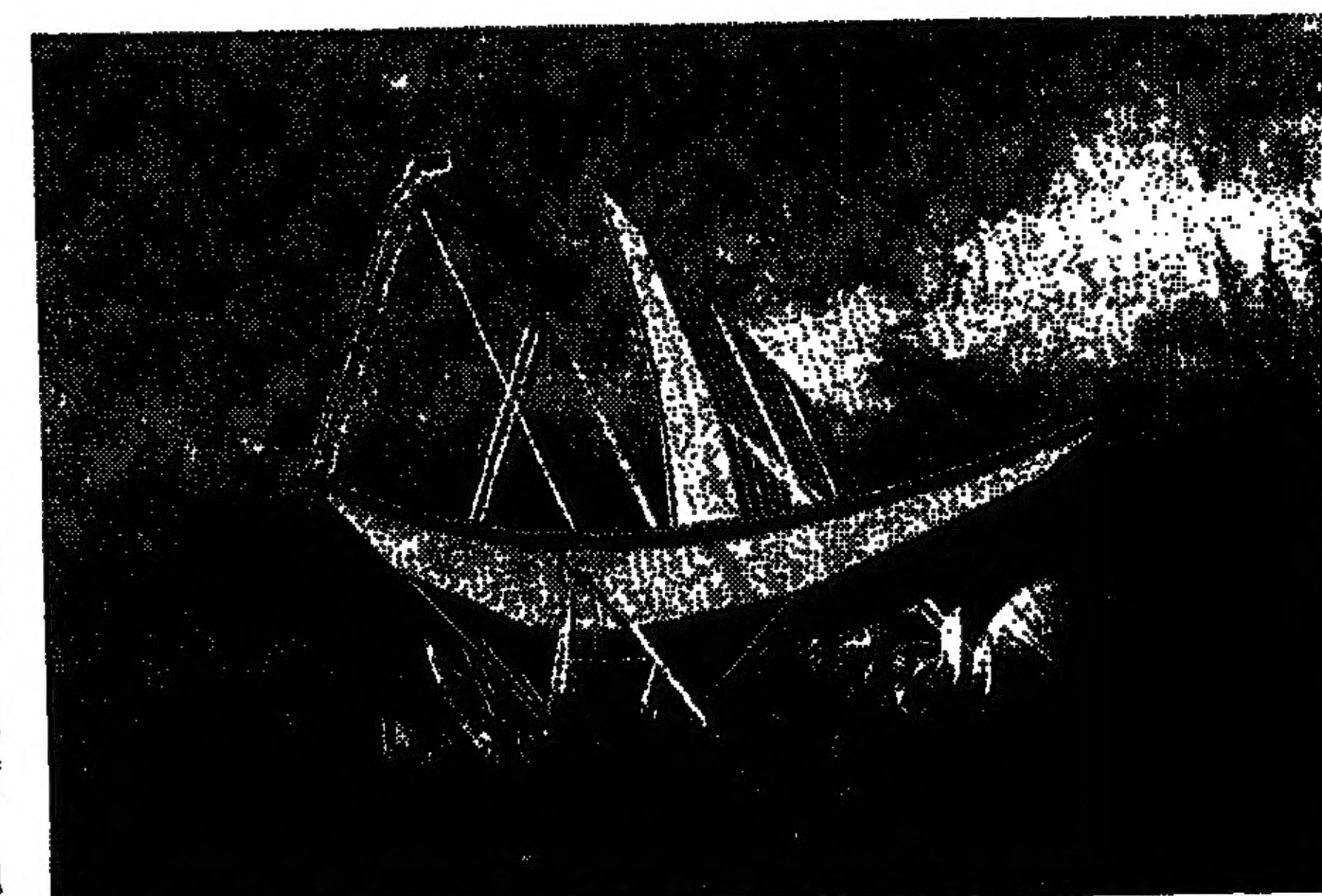
Professor Hans Hinzpeter said: "I feel an effect can be said to have been caused by carbon dioxide increasing in the atmosphere as a result of the increasing use of fossil fuels."

"If one were to be cautious in this, as in other sectors, in view of the prospect of future burdens on the environment, one would probably have to cut back consumption of fossil fuels."

But this was a general statement he personally would not like to give undue emphasis. German meteorologists are less keen to go out on a limb than their US colleagues.

The Hamburg conference as a whole was none too keen on overexposure to publicity. The experts kept mainly to themselves. But the issues they dealt with concern us all.

Wolfgang Riegler
(Deutsche Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, 6 September 1981)



Dish antenna in Tromsø, Norway, used in examining the upper atmosphere in arctic and sub-arctic zones, in an international venture called Icecat. (Photo: MPO)

Radar graduates from enemy aircraft detection

Radar, developed to detect enemy aircraft 40 years ago, has emerged as one of the most sensitive and efficient means of probing developments in the outer atmosphere.

It is one of the major features of the six-nation Icecat project inaugurated on 26 August by King Carl Gustav of Sweden in Kiruna, the northern Swedish iron ore city.

Icecat is a new and permanent research facility for investigating the upper atmosphere in Arctic and sub-Arctic zones.

It is a geophysical joint venture backed by Norway, Sweden, Finland, Britain, France and the Federal Republic of Germany, for which the Max Planck Society is involved.

Basically, Icecat consists of twin radar systems, one on a 22cm wavelength in the UHF sector, the other on a 134cm wavelength in the VHF sector.

Scientific research is based on the incoherent distribution of radio waves among free electrons in the upper atmosphere.

Electromagnetic waves reflected from the ground to the upper atmosphere make free electrons oscillate in the ionosphere and magnetosphere.

Each oscillating electron works like a minute dipole antenna that in its turn reflects electromagnetic waves in all directions, but incoherently and on another wavelength.

The signal received on the ground, the echo of the original impulse, is the

radiation of such electrons in the ionised gas of the upper atmosphere.

By careful analysis of these signals reflected, a large number of physical properties of the ionosphere and magnetosphere can be ascertained.

They include the density and temperature of electrons, the temperature and mass of ions, the density of neutral gas and the average speed of ionised gas.

Inferences can then be drawn as to current systems in the ionosphere, large electrical fields and the input of energy-laden particles from outer space.

Identifying such phenomena is as complex an operation as trying to spot a coin several hundred kilometres away by means of radar.

So large antennas and high-powered transmitters need to be used. In the shorter-wave UHF system three 32-metre dish antennas are used. The mean output of the transmitter is 250 kilowatts.

The three antennas, in Tromsø, Kiruna and Sodankylä (in Norway, Sweden and Finland respectively), are particularly well suited for tracking spatial movement of ionospheric plasma.

In the VHF system the antenna bowl is shaped like a parabolic cylinder cut open with a diameter of 120 metres and a depth of 40 metres.

Its mean transmission output is 650 kilowatts and the reflector, with its four swing sections, is used both to transmit and to receive.

Research work on the Icecat project is basic and fundamental, rather than aimed at any immediate practical use. Its aim is to learn more about the complex interaction between the magnetosphere, the ionosphere and the lower reaches of the atmosphere in the Northern lights zone.

How, for instance, is one to determine convection in the upper ionosphere under the influence of electric fields in the magnetosphere?

Variations in solar wind change the intensity and geographical location of convection currents, the Icecat can measure these electrical fields and currents.

The Northern lights zone is of particular interest because it is here that the earth's magnetic field enters the earth and the interaction is most apparent. Or at least, it is most clearly apparent if correctly analysed and rightly interpreted, scientists say.

Robert Gerwin
(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 29 August 1981)
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 September 1981)

Gulf Stream's effect on the climate

Along the eastern seaboard of America to Newfoundland.

Measuring systems were anchored in positions in these waters to record currents for several years. Temperature and salt readings will, the Hamburg Institute says, tell us more about the horizontal and vertical structure of the warm Gulf Stream water.

Buoys were also set loose to measure drift. Their direction and data would be recorded by satellite for several months to enable conclusions to be reached on the Gulf Stream from the Caribbean and

The Gulf Stream splits up in the Atlantic and only a small part of it flows for north-western Europe, according to a report from the 57th session of the Hamburg-based research group.

According to the German Hydrographical Institute, which owns the ship, the scientific programme for this mission was drawn up at Kiel University. The objective was to learn more about the Gulf Stream's role in bringing about the climate of north-western Europe.

Researchers worked in joint harness with the Kiel research vessel, the "Albatross", to track the progress in the south-east and north of the Atlantic of heat carried by the Gulf Stream from the Caribbean and

■ LITERATURE

Characters who make moral decisions

Siegfried Lenz, in his latest novel *Der Verlust* (The Loss), tells the tale of Uli Martens, a guide who works for a company that runs guided coach tours of Hamburg.

At work one bright summer day he is paralysed by a stroke and comes round in hospital to find himself both paralysed and struck dumb.

When you lose the ability to communicate and to conceptualise what you experience, you run the risk of personality disintegration and losing touch with the world.

You can only survive the crisis and regain the faculty of speech provided your relations with others do not grind to a halt.

Uli Martens is in particular danger of this happening because he has lived an unconventional life with next to no ties.

His principle has always been to keep his options open for something new, something different, something unplanned.

He has always avoided committing himself. He has never fully furnished an apartment. He has repeatedly switched jobs.

His friendship with Nora, a librarian, was, characteristically, a temporary affair, and she found it hard to come to terms with life as a makeshift.

She suspected that the continual stops and starts in Uli's life were partly motivated by a desire to steer clear of demands and difficulties.

As one character in the novel puts it: "If you have no ambition you can never be a loser."

After Uli's stroke Nora initially wants to break off the affair. She feels weak and unsure of herself in any case, and although she likes him their relationship has always been precarious and liable to be called off at any moment.

But she feels a new situation has arisen that entails obligations she ought not to shirk.

Uli makes despairing bids to get through to her, making her realise she is the only person who can help him.

So she decides to make their relationship more permanent than it had been and to give her sick friend fresh confidence in himself and for the future by planning a future together in a new home.

The closing words of the novel sound a note of confidence: "Nora walked slowly round the bed and sat on the edge, taking hold of Uli's hand. There was a knock, and both of them looked towards the door."

Lenz's novel is both a love story and a tale of being handicapped. It is a dangerous combination but Lenz steers clear of false romanticism.

He also avoids the sense of outrage, aimed in an almost hackneyed way, solely at claims to which the disabled are entitled, that has lately characterised at times the debate on relations between the handicapped and the world of the healthy.

Lenz evidently is trying to remind us of the simple but important truth that human solidarity, taken seriously as a moral obligation, is of crucial significance.

It certainly is, he says, when it is a matter of coping with a serious breakdown in the integrity of an individual

and a dramatic cutback in the opportunities life presents.

The person hit by such a loss has to feel he continues to be acknowledged and accepted for himself; otherwise he will give himself up and succumb to despair.

In this, as in past novels, Siegfried Lenz is a moralist. Like Heinrich Böll, he is a writer who tells the tales of clearly outlined characters capable of taking moral decisions.

He retains humanity as an option, a possibility that still remains in a world that is anything but harmonious.

This kind of topic and a traditionally oriented narrative style have earned Lenz his popularity with his reading public.

By no means infrequently they have also got him into trouble with the critics. He has been accused of lacking a clear insight into the incurable condition of the modern world.

He has been accused of failing to appreciate the desolation of the individual and the inappropriateness of conventional modes of portrayal.

His new novel shows Lenz not to belong to the category of do-or-die modern authors who dispense altogether with conventional narrative forms.

He is not a writer to harp exclusively on the desperate ego-decline and destruction of all modes of contact between individuals.

Lenz can set against this literature of hopelessness the simple fact that we all still manage to come to terms with each other about the world around us by means of narration.

Besides, he can fairly argue that human life would be impossible to lead were there not reasonable grounds for confidence in the success of bids to reach understanding and in the possibility of meaningful activity.

This confidence can, of course, always be disappointed. Relations are always endangered. The world is growing increasingly alien and hostile to mankind.

These are facts that the books of moralists Lenz and Böll by no means omit to mention.

Siegfried Lenz's latest novel may be gratifying in many ways, but there can be no overlooking a number of formal shortcomings.

Its main characters, for instance, create an impression of being poorly thought out and schematic in many respects.

Uli is too good to be true as a lovable nonconformist, and truly marvellous guide. Nora, weak but suddenly testifying to strength at the moment of decision, bears witness to Lenz's predilection for paradox.

Schematic characterisation of this kind is too readily apparent in the person of Mrs Grant, the energetic headmistress and motherly friend of Nora's, who breaks down helplessly when crisis comes.

Another criticism that must be made is that a number of the lovingly painstakingly assembled narrative details perform no function.

By no means infrequently the adjectives with which Lenz is given to adorn his prose sound too flimsy or superfluous.

But the novel can readily be forgiven these shortcomings because it shows evident concern for its subject matter in general and because of one passage in particular.

It is the lengthy chapter in which Lenz describes the lurching odyssey his hero embarks on when he escapes from hospital paralysed and speechless. It is a most effective, compact and intense piece of writing.

Jürgen Jacobs

(Kölnische Rundschau, 29 August 1981)

Getting the right mix of science with the fiction

Science fiction did not come in for much criticism at Nord Con 81, the three-day get-together of about 150 SF fans, writers and artists in Nuremberg.

A 16-year-old girl remarked apologetically that she wished science fiction would show a little more humanity, but that was about as far as SF criticism went.

The conference was very much what it promised to be, a get-together of insiders, and as is usual in such cases, no-one for a moment thought to take a critical look at the genre.

Nuremberg SF writer Kurt Karl Döberer concluded, in a somewhat sluggish platform debate, that science fiction really must be just what the name implies: science fiction.

Both the conference organisers and their guests seemed satisfied with this question-begging definition.

This is not to say there was no-one at the Nuremberg conference who might not have had more to say on the subject. But the man who, more than anyone else, might have been able to shed light on it preferred not to do so.

He was Herbert W. Franke, a professor of cybernetics and physics and one of the best and most successful current German SF writers.

Unfortunately, he only attended for a short while and voiced his views on his subject as a scientist and a writer on the periphery of the conference.

Science fiction, he felt, was less escapist than, say, the crime thriller. "The



best SF is steadily improving in quality," he said.

He should know, being himself largely responsible for the improvement in German SF, but gratifying though the trend may be, it applies only to the best of SF.

The run-of-the-mill was only too obvious from the German publishers' output on show in the foyer. Moewig, Goldmann, Ullstein and Heyne still put quantity before quality.

Quality was not, of course, on the agenda, so it went without saying that Herbert W. Franke chose not to criticise his fellow-writers and potential readers.

He said the conference was positive and, as a matter of principle, very much to be welcomed. He could have said more but preferred to keep his own counsel.

Maybe he had intended to make a few critical comments, but the author of *Zone Null* (Zero Zone), *Einstains Gehirn* (Einstein's Brain) and *Paradies 3000* (Paradise 3000) could be excused for changing his mind.

The sight of a number of SF fans brandishing plastic laser guns and wearing long leather boots and unimaginative spoof uniforms would have been enough to discourage anyone.

In speeches and conversation it was said time and again that Wild West methods and ideas must be kept out of outer space.

But SF writer Walter Ernsting (whose non-de-plume is Clark Darlton) added that there were, unfortunately, bound to be clashes (and wars) in SF, given that they still occurred on earth.

True enough, perhaps, but he unfortunately forgot to refer to SF novels and

films in which fighting and wars seem, not to be just the spice of life but its sole purpose.

Many other points went unmentioned at the conference, which was held in appropriately concrete surroundings at the Langwasser community centre.

Nasa's Jescro von Puttkamer gave a lecture and slide show on the Shuttle programme that provided again what smart space operators and Americans are.

But he had nothing to say about billions that are needlessly spent on space research.

And only in a subordinate clause did he concede that the US space programme was geared in part to the requirements. To who else?

Maybe an SF fan might see fit to him the latest edition of *Polysuhrkamp* science fiction, which includes some very fine stuff (including one by Franke).

Jörg Weigand's *Der Traum der Astronauten* (The Astronaut's Dream) the one Puttkamer would do well to read, however.

After a long journey through the astronaut returns to earth with brains bashed in by humans who hold a dim view of his achievement.

Permanent occupancy of space, as put by Nasa and Puttkamer, is no longer the priority. "Who can afford Germany itself to be laid waste, the stars?" Weigand's humanity managed to overcome his scruples.

"Our kids are starving." An idea of what Professor Franke has meant with his reference to steady improvement at the top was conveyed solely by scientific writer Susanne Pilch in a well-researched paper on Space Utopias: A History of Speculation in Literature and Art.

One learnt at last that there was no science fiction than Jules Verne and Perry Rhodan (the German SF magazine hero).

Perry Rhodan writers are not on Jules Verne, incidentally. Not nothing is Verne invariably cited as classic SF writer.

Susanne Pilch also mentioned Laszlo and H.G. Wells, pointing the way for a reference to writers whose names have been forgotten altogether.

Take, for instance, sensitive, poet Paul Scheerbart or subtle, ironic Hermann Hesse.

Maybe we will begin to recall that first SF stories dated back to ancient Greece and Egypt, including the description by Lucian of a voyage to the moon and the satirical utopias of portugal Aristophanes.

Or take the distinguished Polish writer Stanislaw Lem, who is 60 this year. But even if one's memory is less exacting than Lem's, his novels, leaves the outside observer feeling the unhappy.

It wasn't just that Eric von Detten the swashbuckling Swiss author of *Chronik der Götter* (Chronicle of the Gods) had token appearances and had no say.

What made one feel the conference was somewhat dubious was in which SF fans presented themselves.

How else is one to assess the quality of a Nuremberg SF club's displays, commentaries, discussions, speeches, and other activities?

By the way, the conference was a veteran TV fare of the 1970s, by being glassy.

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OBITUARY

Albert Speer haunted until the end by involvement with genocide

Albert Speer, who died at 76 on a visit to London, was dubbed by his biographer, the German historian Golo Mann 'the devil's architect'.

For he, as dead many attempts will be made to find a fitting epithet for architect and wartime Minister of Production.

Speer, who served a 20-year prison sentence for his part in the Nazi labour programme, is not so easy to forget.

He was a well-known Mannheim architect's son and thus a member of the upper middle class who came into contact with the wheels of power at an early age.

Speer was in many ways representative of a German Establishment without whose support Hitler would have run out of steam in next to no time, one imagines.

He was one of the young technocrats who were needed once the Nazi ideologists or speechifying bodyguard-ideologists of the early period were no longer in demand.

These youngsters were needed to get the war machine moving or to organise emergency arrangements on the home front.

He and his like were later accused of having been deeply unpolitical, interchangeable and as useful to a democracy as to a dictatorship.

He was neither an ex-serviceman nor one of the breed that fought in the trenches in the declining years of the Weimar Republic.

He first got to know Adolf Hitler in the early 30s and was fascinated by the Führer and the opportunities acquaintance opened up for him as a young architect.

He dedicated himself to a system which, despite growing doubts, he did no longer escape.

Then in the spring of 1945, when the war was on its last legs and Hitler was in a state of mind to be laid waste, he managed to overcome his scruples.

Much though they may have troubled him, it came to crunch he pledged unconditional loyalty to the Führer.

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Yet for a twofold reason Albert Speer is well worth taking a closer look at; and historians, philosophers, psychoanalysts and any number of publicists have already done so.

The part he played in the Third Reich and the remarkable way in which he came to terms with his past in his memoirs continue to provide material for delving into the darkest period in German history.

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This, the argument ran, was what made technocrats so dangerous.

Soon after the war Speer began to consider what truth there was in such allegations. Unlike most of the other men in the dock at Nuremberg, he pleaded guilty.

In several books he later outlined the change he underwent, viewing his past with a growing sense of detachment and prompting, incidentally, a variety of responses.

Frankfurt psychoanalyst Alexander Mitscherlich, a subtle observer of his fellow-men, noted in a 1975 article for *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* that:

"In many ways he (Speer) has an intact Protestant super-ego. The admission of guilt he made at Nuremberg and has made on several occasions since is couched in extremely general terms and sounds distinctly pallid."

Even so, Albert Speer cannot be said to have been one of the incorrigibles.

One naturally wonders to what extent Speer deliberately staged his confessions. In 1975 Carl Amery, the writer, a former concentration camp inmate, called on him to make atonement in private and on his own.

His self-recriminations have never been total. Many were qualified by unsure-sounding statements about how

he came to terms with Hitler, for whom architecture was long a medium of special importance.

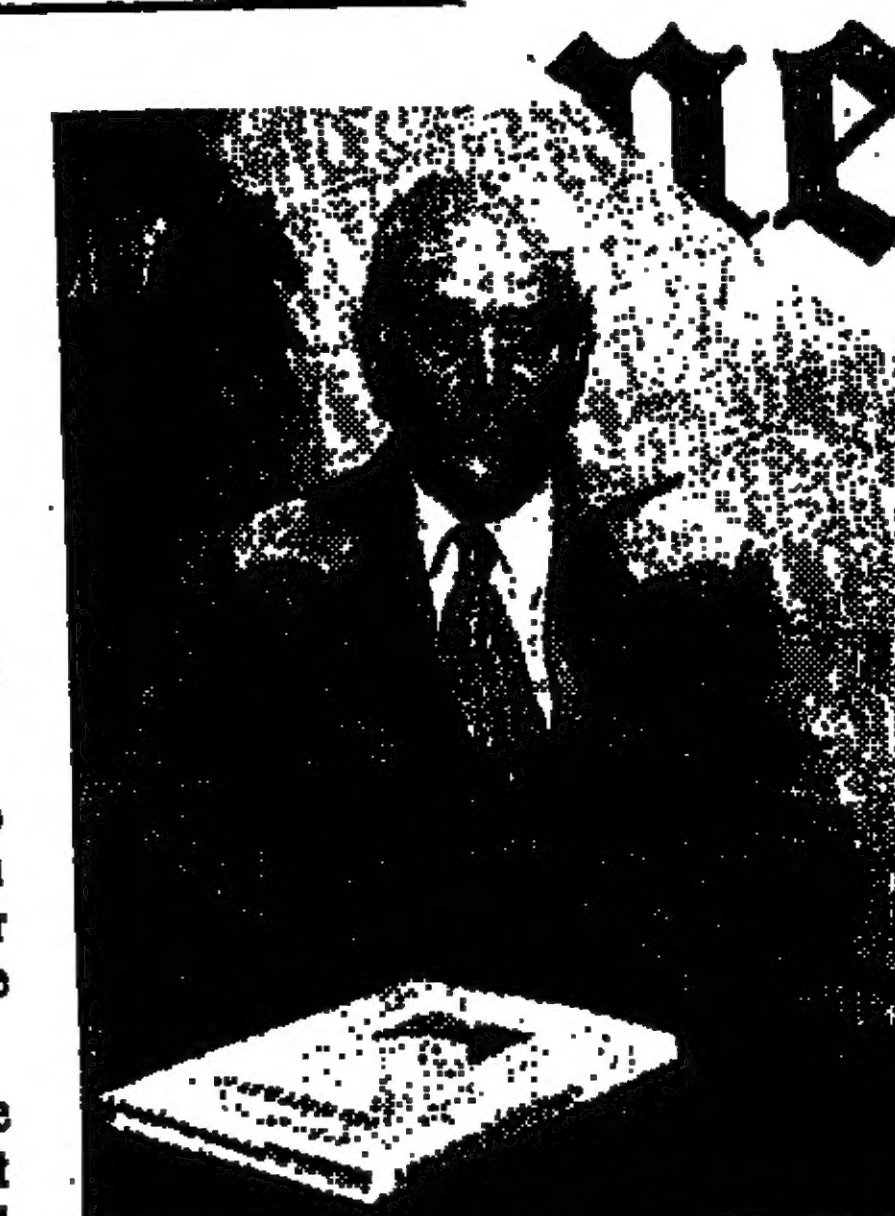
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Maybe this was the instinctive way in which he ensured survival. Much of what he wrote testified to astonishment at the way in which he fell for Hitler.

He never does seem to have arrived at a convincing explanation. He certainly seems until his dying day to have been haunted by the fact that he had served a regime which channelled its energy into genocide.

It could hardly have committed more heinous crimes. Roderich Reifernath

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 3 September 1981)



Albert Speer... fascinated by the Führer. (Photo: Sven Simon)

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LITERATURE

Characters who make moral decisions

Siegfried Lenz, in his latest novel *Der Verlust* (The Loss), tells the tale of Uli Martens, a guide who works for a company that runs guided coach tours of Hamburg.

At work one bright summer day he is paralysed by a stroke and comes round in hospital to find himself both paralysed and struck dumb.

When you lose the ability to communicate and to conceptualise what you experience, you run the risk of personality disintegration and losing touch with the world.

You can only survive the crisis and regain the faculty of speech provided your relations with others do not grind to a halt.

Uli Martens is in particular danger of this happening because he has lived an unconventional life with next to no ties.

His principle has always been to keep his options open for something new, something different, something unplanned.

He has always avoided committing himself. He has never fully furnished an apartment. He has repeatedly switched jobs.

His friendship with Nora, a librarian, was, characteristically, a temporary affair, and she found it hard to come to terms with life as a makeshift.

She suspected that the continual stops and starts in Uli's life were partly motivated by a desire to "keep clear" of demands and difficulties.

As one character in the novel puts it: "If you have no ambition you can never be a loser."

After Uli's stroke Nora initially wants to break off the affair. She feels weak and unsure of herself in any case, and although she likes him their relationship has always been precarious and liable to be called off at any moment.

But she feels a new situation has arisen that entails obligations she ought not to shirk.

Uli makes despairing bids to get through to her, making her realise she is the only person who can help him.

So she decides to make their relationship more permanent than it had been and to give her sick friend fresh confidence in himself and for the future, by planning a future together in a new home.

The closing words of the novel sound a note of confidence: "Nora walked slowly round the bed and sat on the edge, taking hold of Uli's hand. There was a knock, and both of them looked towards the door."

Lenz's novel is both a love story and a tale of being handicapped. It is a dangerous combination but Lenz steers clear of false romanticism.

He also avoids the sense of outrage, aimed in an almost hackneyed way, solely at claims to which the disabled are entitled, that has lately characterised, at times the debate on relations between the handicapped and the world of the healthy.

Lenz evidently is trying to remind us of the simple but important truth that human solidarity, taken seriously as a moral obligation, is of crucial significance.

It certainly is, he says, when it is a matter of coping with a serious breakdown in the integrity of an individual

and a dramatic cutback in the opportunities life presents.

The person hit by such a loss has to feel he continues to be acknowledged and accepted for himself; otherwise he will give himself up and succumb to despair.

In this, as in past novels, Siegfried Lenz is a moralist. Like Heinrich Böll, he is a writer who tells the tales of clearly outlined characters capable of taking moral decisions.

He retains humanity as an option, a possibility that still remains in a world that is anything but harmonious.

This kind of topic and a traditionally oriented narrative style have earned Lenz his popularity with his reading public.

By no means infrequently they have also got him into trouble with the critics. He has been accused of lacking a clear insight into the incurable condition of the modern world.

He has been accused of failing to appreciate the desolation of the individual and the inappropriateness of conventional modes of portrayal.

His new novel shows Lenz not to belong to the category of do-or-die modern authors who dispense altogether with conventional narrative forms.

He is not a writer to harp exclusively on the desperate ego-decline and destruction of all modes of contact between individuals.

Lenz can set against this literature of hopelessness the simple fact that we all still manage to come to terms with each other about the world around us by means of narration.

Besides, he can fairly argue that human life would be impossible to lead were there not reasonable grounds for confidence in the success of bids to reach understanding and in the possibility of meaningful activity.

This confidence can, of course, always be disappointed. Relations are always endangered. The world is growing increasingly alien and hostile to mankind.

These are facts that the books of moralists Lenz and Böll by no means omit to mention.

Siegfried Lenz's latest novel may be gratifying in many ways, but there can be no overlooking a number of formal shortcomings.

Its main characters, for instance, create an impression of being poorly thought out and schematic in many respects.

Uli is too good to be true as a lovable nonconformist, and, truly, marvellous guide, Nora, weak but suddenly testifying to strength at the moment of decision, bears witness to Lenz's predilection for paradox.

Schematic characterisation of this kind is too readily apparent in the person of Mrs. Grant, the energetic headmistress and motherly friend of Nora's, who breaks down helplessly when crisis comes.

Another criticism that must be made is that a number of the lovingly, painstakingly assembled narrative details perform no function.

By no means infrequently the adjectives with which Lenz is given to adorn his prose sound too fluffy or superfluous.

But the novel can readily be forgiven these shortcomings because it shows evident concern for its subject matter in general and because of one passage in particular.

It is the lengthy chapter in which Lenz describes the "furching odyssey" his hero embarks on when he escapes from hospital paralysed and speechless. It is a most effective, compact and intense piece of writing.

Jürgen Jacobs
(Kaiser-Stadt-Altezeit, 29 August 1981)

Getting the right mix of science with the fiction

Science fiction did not come in for much criticism at Nurem Con 81, the three-day get-together of about 150 SF fans, writers and artists in Nuremberg.

A 16-year-old girl remarked apologetically that she wished science fiction would show a little more humanity, but that was about as far as SF criticism went.

The conference was very much what it promised to be, a get-together of insiders, and as is usual in such cases, none for a moment thought to take a critical look at the genre.

Nuremberg SF writer Kurt Karl Döberer concluded, in a somewhat sluggish platform debate, that science fiction really must be just what the name implies: science fiction.

Both the conference organisers and their guests seemed satisfied with this question-begging definition.

This is not to say there was no-one at the Nuremberg conference who might not have had more to say on the subject. But the man who, more than anyone else, might have been able to shed light on it preferred not to do so.

He was Herbert W. Franke, a professor of cybernetics and physics and one of the best and most successful current German SF writers.

Unfortunately, he only attended for a short while and voiced his views on his subject as a scientist and a writer on the periphery of the conference.

Science fiction, he felt, was less escapist than, say, the crime thriller. "The



best SF is steadily improving in quality," he said.

He should know, being himself largely responsible for the improvement in German SF, but gratifying though the trend may be, it applies only to the best of SF.

The run-of-the-mill was only too obvious from the German publishers' output on show in the foyer. Moewig, Goldmann, Ullstein and Heyne still put quantity before quality.

Quality was not, of course, on the agenda, so it went, without saying, that Herbert W. Franke chose not to criticise his fellow-writers and potential readers.

He said the conference was positive and, as a matter of principle, very much to be welcomed. He could have said more but preferred to keep his own counsel.

Maybe he had intended to make a few critical comments, but the author of *Zone Null* (Zero Zone), *Einstein's Gehirn* (Einstein's Brain) and *Paradies 3000* (Paradise 3000) could be excused for changing his mind.

The sight of a number of SF fans brandishing plastic laser guns and wearing long leather boots and unimaginative spoof uniforms would have been enough to discourage anyone.

In speeches and conversation it was said time and again that Wild West methods and ideas must be kept out of outer space.

But SF writer Walter Emsting (whose non-de-plume is 'Clark Darfion') added that there were, unfortunately, bound to be clashes (and wars) in SF, given that they still occurred on earth.

True enough, perhaps, but he unfortunately forgot to refer to SF novels and

films in which fighting and wars seem, not to be just the spice of life, but its sole purpose.

Many other points went unmentioned at the conference, which was held in appropriately concrete surroundings at the Langwasser community centre.

Nasa's Jesco von Puttkamer gave a lecture and slide show on the Shuttle programme that proved again what smart space operations Americans are.

But he had nothing to say about billions that are needlessly spent on space research.

And only in a subordinate clause he conceded that the US space programme was geared in part to military requirements. To who else?

Maybe an SF fan might see fit to tell him the latest edition of Peter Suhrkamp's science fiction atlas, which includes some very fine text (including one by Franke).

Jörg Weigand's *Der Traum in der Transparenz* (The Astronaut's Dream) the one Puttkamer would do well to read, however.

After a long journey through the astronaut returns to earth to find his brains bashed in by humans who have a dim view of his achievement.

Permanent occupancy of space, as put by Nasa and Puttkamer, is not on its last legs and Hitler longer the priority. "Who cares about Germany itself to be laid waste, the stars?" Weigand's humanity

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One learnt at last that there was no science fiction than Jules Verne or Perry Rhodan (the German SF pulp magazine hero).

Perry Rhodan writers are not a party on Jules Verne, incidentally. Not nothing is Verne invariably cited as a classic SF writer.

Susanne Pich also mentioned Lasswitz and H.G. Wells, partly why for a reference to written names have been forgotten altogether.

"Take," for instance, sensitive Paul Scheerbart or subtle, ironic Hermann Hesse.

Maybe we will begin to recall that first SF stories dated back to Antiquity, Greece and Egypt, including the tradition by Lucian of a voyage to the moon and the satirical utopias portrayed by Aristophanes.

Or take the distinguished Polish writer Stanislaw Lem, who is 60 this year. But even if one's standards are less exacting than Lem's, it leaves the outside observer feeling the unhappy.

It wasn't just that Erich von Däniken's *Chariot of the Gods* (the book of the gods) had been taken up and had a long shelf life.

What made one feel the tradition was somewhat dubious was that in which SF fans presented themselves.

How else is one to assess the quality of a Nuremberg SF club, which displays commercial plastic models, SpaceShip, Enterprise, and a veteran TV fare of the space open world, behind glass?

(Nuremberger Nachrichten, 21 August 1981)

OBITUARY

Albert Speer haunted until the end by involvement with genocide

Albert Speer, who died at 76 on a flight to London, was dubbed by his biographer, the devil's architect. He is dead many attempts will be made to find a fitting epitaph for the architect and wartime Minister of Production.

Speer, who served a 20-year prison sentence for his part in the Nazi labour programme, is not so easy to forget.

Released from Nuremberg, he spent his years in Spandau gaol yet remained in the public eye. One of the most contradictory public figures of the Reich.

He was neither an ex-serviceman nor a member of the Nazi Party. He was in the declining years of his life when Hitler was in power.

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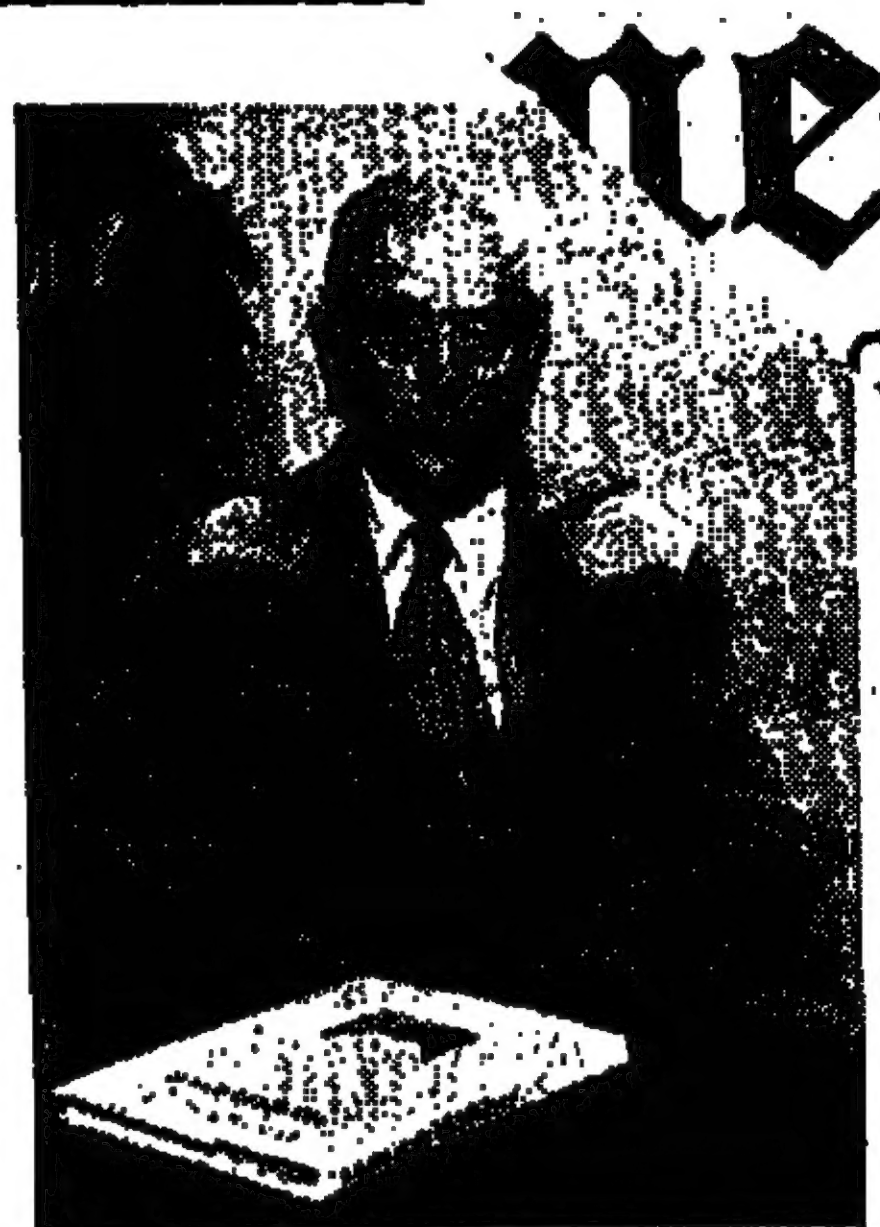
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(Photo: Sven Simon)

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LITERA



ne will never be the same again the traditional kindergarten

West German kindergartens have achieved more in the past 10 years than in the 200 years since the movement began.

The main reason: a movement called *Kindertiden*, children's shops.

Children's shops were established in 1968 on the initiative of student parents. They turned traditional ideas upside down and their anti-authoritarian bias caused widespread controversy.

The aim was to bolster a child's independence and help him to cope with conflicts, by letting him or her choose what to do.

Something of the new approach has rubbed off on the traditional kindergarten, as a university study now reveals.

Professor Horst Nickel, of Düsseldorf University's department of educational psychology, says that the shops are better than their reputation suggests and kindergartens are not as bad as they are made out to be.

Children from both streams are closer in attitude than is generally assumed.

In a way, the study considers, the influence of the children's shops on kindergartens has been as favourable as was that of the "free schools" on the general school system in the early years of the 20th century.

Over seven years the researchers observed 75 pre-school institutions, 45 children's shops and 10 Catholic, 10 Protestant and 10 municipal kindergartens.

They also ran an opinion survey involving 200 children's shops.

The results of the study, which was backed by the German Society for Peace and Conflict Research, have now been presented in six volumes ("Studies on Teacher and Parent Attitudes, and the Social Attitudes of Children in Parent Initiative Groups and Kindergartens").

Nickel and his staff say more happens in the shops and the children show more initiative. They are socially more active and much more cooperative than in traditional kindergartens.

The edge the shops have over kindergartens begins with space and its division: apart from group rooms, they frequently have several additional small rooms. The area set aside for play is twice as large per child as in kindergartens.

In addition, the furnishings are mostly more intimate (intended for one group only) and the groups are smaller (17 as against 27 in the kindergarten). The teacher-child ratio is also better in the shops. This means that shop teachers are in a better position to devote attention to parts of groups.

They can stimulate the children and deal with individual needs. And since the shops are more spacious the teachers tend to be more satisfied with their work. This in turn benefits the children.

The Düsseldorf researchers observed and analysed how these differences affect such typical kindergarten activities as painting and handicrafts.

They noted how the children were guided: whether a child was made to join in activities against its will; and how the teachers cope with such a child.

In kindergartens, the children who paint are usually kept in the same room with other children and are frequently looked after by the same teacher. As a



result, many kindergarten teachers tend to include all children in guided group activities regardless of their individual inclination. This gives such activities an "enforced character".

In the shops, on the other hand, children and teachers withdraw into smaller rooms to paint, which enables the teacher to concentrate entirely on the painting group.

Children who do not feel like painting are therefore not constantly told to be quiet or chided for disturbing the others; and, by the same token, the children who want to paint do not have to be told to concentrate.

Surprisingly, kindergarten children are much more active in doing the preparatory work for painting (like putting tables together or getting the necessary paints and paper from the cupboard).

Since it is the declared aim of the shops to promote independence and initiative, it would seem natural to expect exactly the opposite.

But the inconsistency is only apparent. There are many more guided activities in kindergarten than in shops. This means that kindergarten children acquire more routine in doing such preparatory work, are better "trained" and therefore give the impression of being more independent than their opposite numbers in the shops where activities are triggered more on spontaneous impulse.

As a result, life in the shops is less "planned," more spontaneous and therefore inevitably gives the impression of a certain "disorderliness".

Kindergarten teachers frequently admonish the children to paint "neatly" without telling them what exactly they mean.

This attitude is much more infrequent at the shops. And this, the Düsseldorf researchers say, reflects the more pronounced rejection by the shops of competition as an educational principle.

But this does not mean that the shops do entirely without instruction, admonishment and don'ts, thus forgoing au-

thoritarian guidance altogether — as has frequently been assumed.

The children's shops have always held that discipline is necessary but that it must be based on rules and aims that the children understand. As a result, the shops draw no clear and permanent line between the rules that are necessary to make a community function and the need for the free development of the individual.

Such rules are reviewed constantly in the light of new situations and, if necessary, changed.

The tediousness and difficulty here is borne out by the many heated discussions on this very subject in parent-teacher meetings. But the reward is a happy and well balanced group of children who enjoy themselves.

Shops make an all-out effort to do justice to the individual child — but not at any cost.

The idea is to take everybody into account: children, teachers and parents.

The more friendly and understanding type of teacher who goes along with the feelings and sentiments of the children is therefore more frequently found in the shops than in kindergartens.

But this type of teacher is less interested in developing abilities the child will need at school. Typical pre-school work is therefore done less frequently than under other teachers.

Despite the differences between the two types of pre-schooling, the researchers give generally good marks to the teachers in both. In fact, the authoritarian and totally detached type of teacher has virtually disappeared.

The researchers divide the teachers into roughly three categories. The first is the encouraging and stimulating teacher who spontaneously responds to the emotions of the children and helps each one individually in such activities as painting, cooking, handicrafts, etc.

The second type is more detached and not exactly encouraging. He resorts to dos, don'ts and admonishments and tries to guide rather than stimulate. He rarely addresses the children personally though he does lend a helping hand on occasion. The third category is neither unfriendly nor particularly outgoing. He does little to promote initiative in the

individual and barely attempts to influence a child's behaviour. He issues instructions and there are few impulses coming from him. He has usually no relationship with the individual child. Though the researchers say the three types are found in the different types of pre-school institutions, the type is clearly more frequently found in the shops and the third is more frequently found in kindergartens.

One of the observations made in the course of the survey is rather surprising. It transpired that the attitudes of children and teachers in cases of conflict were markedly at odds with the theoretical concepts.

This means that compromising, in other words, solutions without a loser were in the minority. The children frequently resolved their conflicts by themselves, resorting to aggressive means and it was mostly the adults who gained the upper hand. Other children tended to withdraw from the conflict together or not get involved in the place.

The family remains an important factor in a child's development and the shops have another edge over traditional kindergartens: inasmuch as parents are much more involved in organisation and educational planning than in the case with kindergartens.

But the study also found that practical involvement was diminishing and that the teachers have been giving more and more say in the day-to-day running of the shop.

There are conspicuous differences in the way in which parents deal with children's conflicts. Those who take their children to a kindergarten tend to smooth over disputes on the surface rather than go into them in any depth. Their attitude is: Well, it wasn't too bad, was it? They are also much more authoritarian towards their children when conflicts arise.

Parents who send their children to shops, on the other hand, are more critical and their attitude towards children is more partner-like. They also warmer towards their children, take them more seriously. Unlike kindergarten parents, they do not use their own upbringing as a yardstick for their children.

Kindergarten mothers are more likely to stress their authority when it comes to family matters, while shop parents consider both house and family and outside involvement a matter for both parents.

Renate I. Meyer
Deutscher Forschungsrat
(Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung, 6 September 1981)

Exploitation of child labour thrives

making them clean the shop and do other minor tasks without pay.

He promised them an apprenticeship after the probationary period. But he had no intention of honouring the promise.

The trick worked several times until the authorities caught him.

There are many such cases on record with the Society for the Protection of Children in Hanover.

The Society's administrator, Walter Wilken, has called on the authorities to enforce child labour legislation more vigorously.

He also called on the courts to pose stiff penalties rather than offenders as if they had committed a déshonneur. Wilken demands a look on child labour. At present, there are some exceptions provided for in the law.

• Children from the age of 13 may be employed in light work.

• From the age of 13, they may be allowed to deliver newspapers for a few hours a day.

• They may help in the kitchen for three hours a day, and

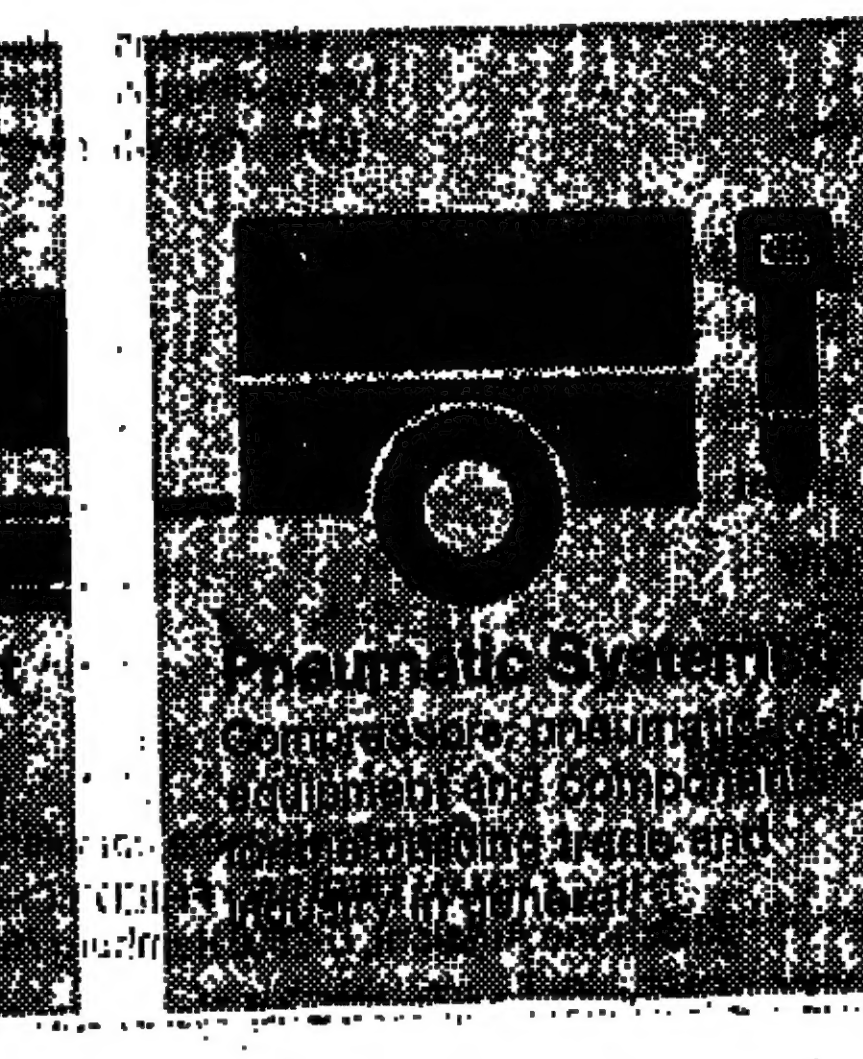
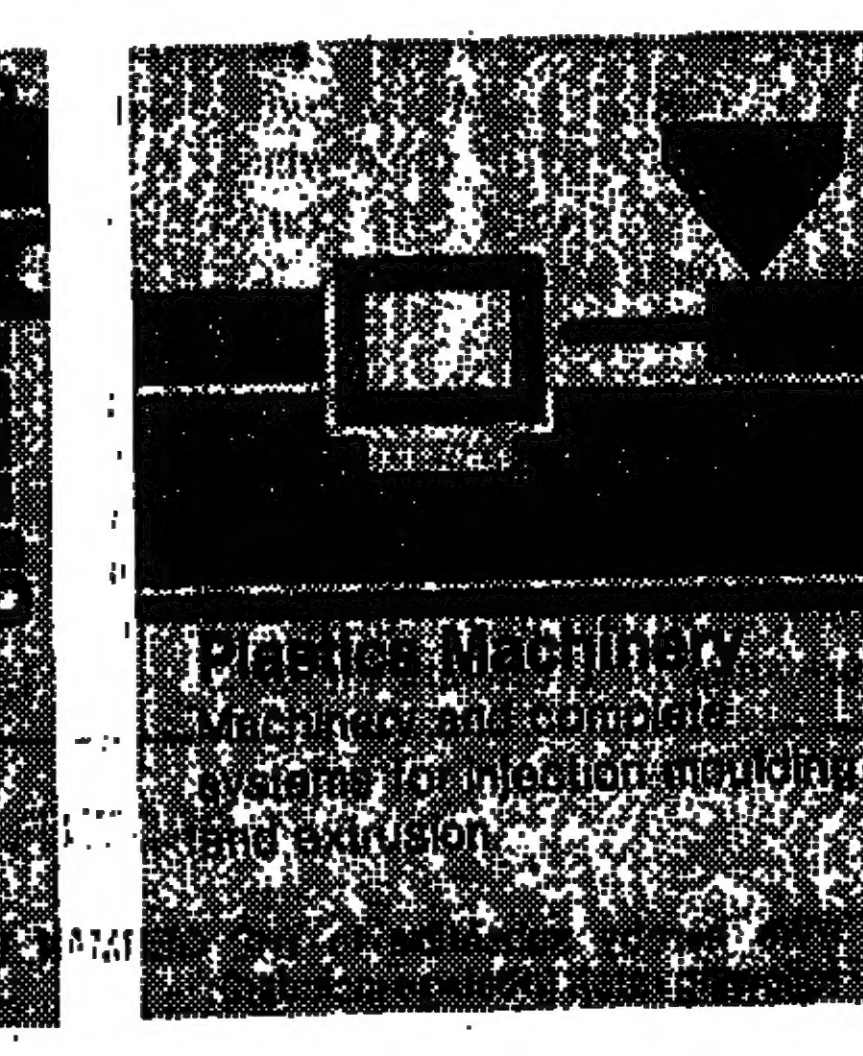
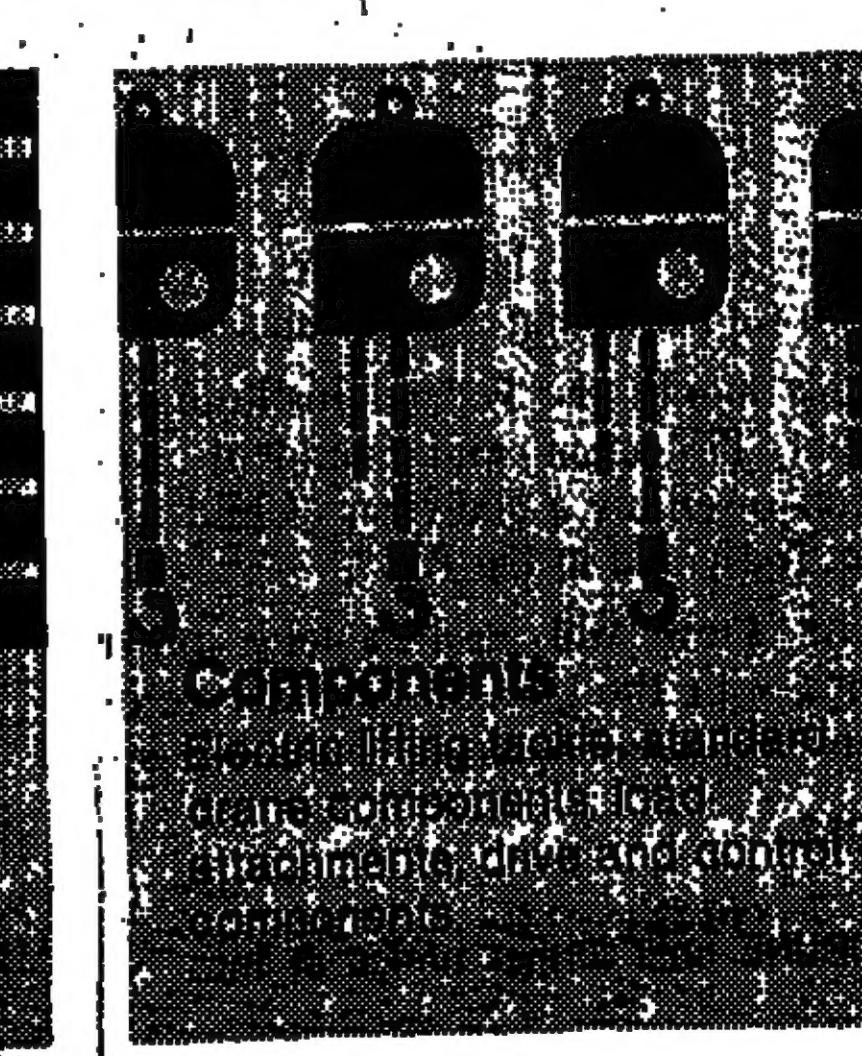
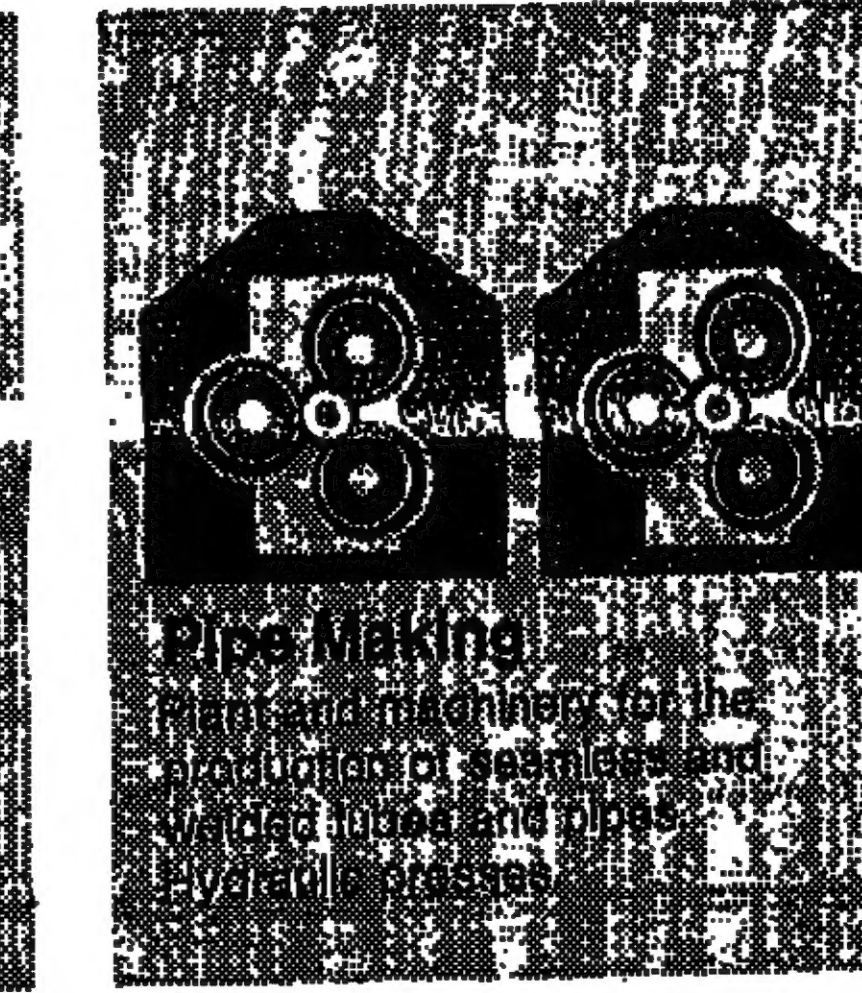
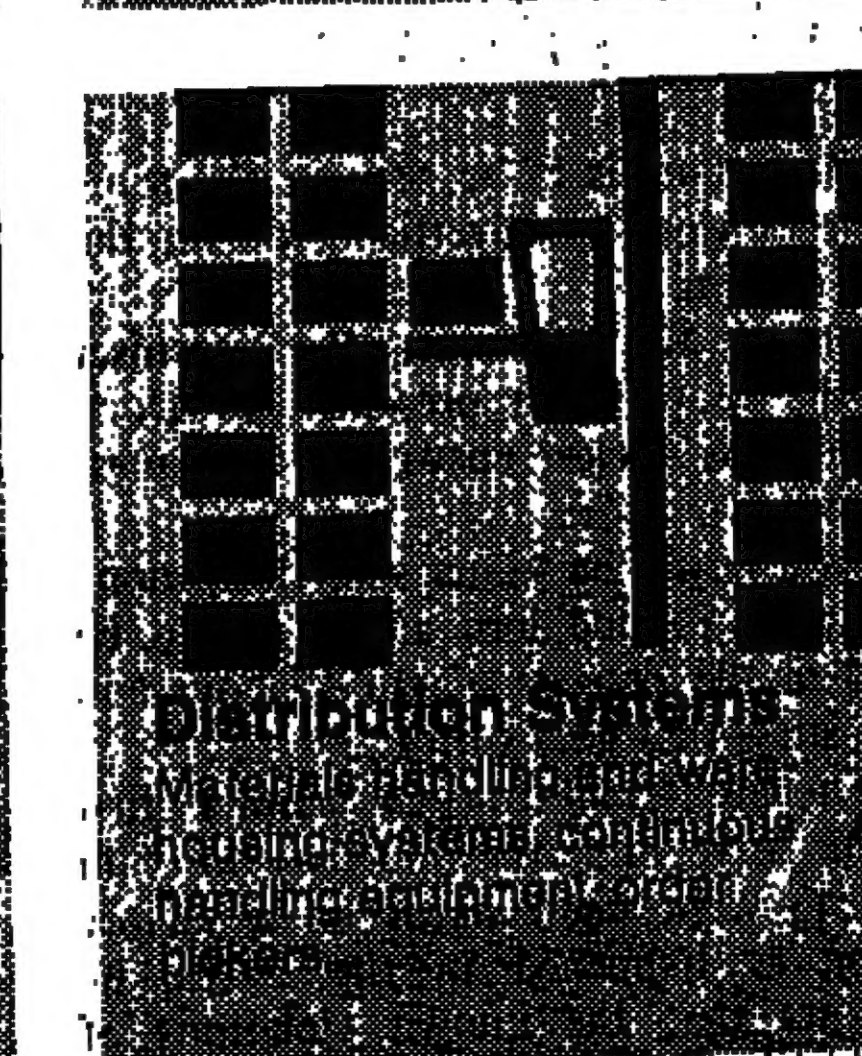
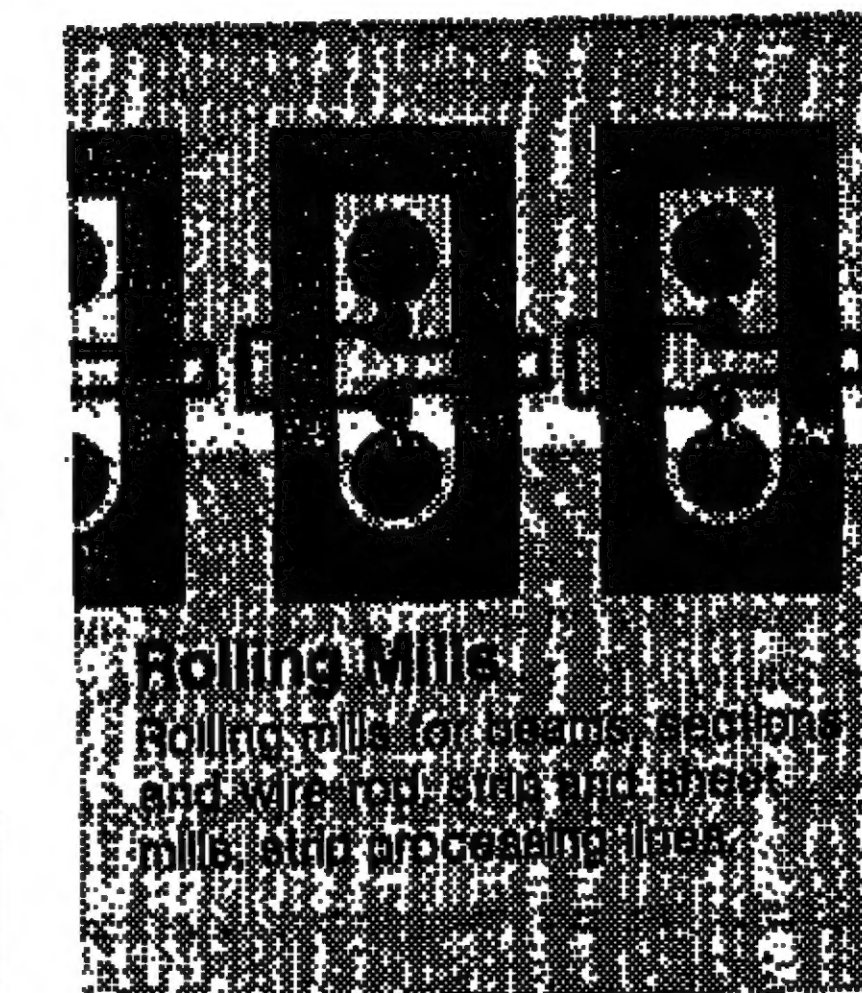
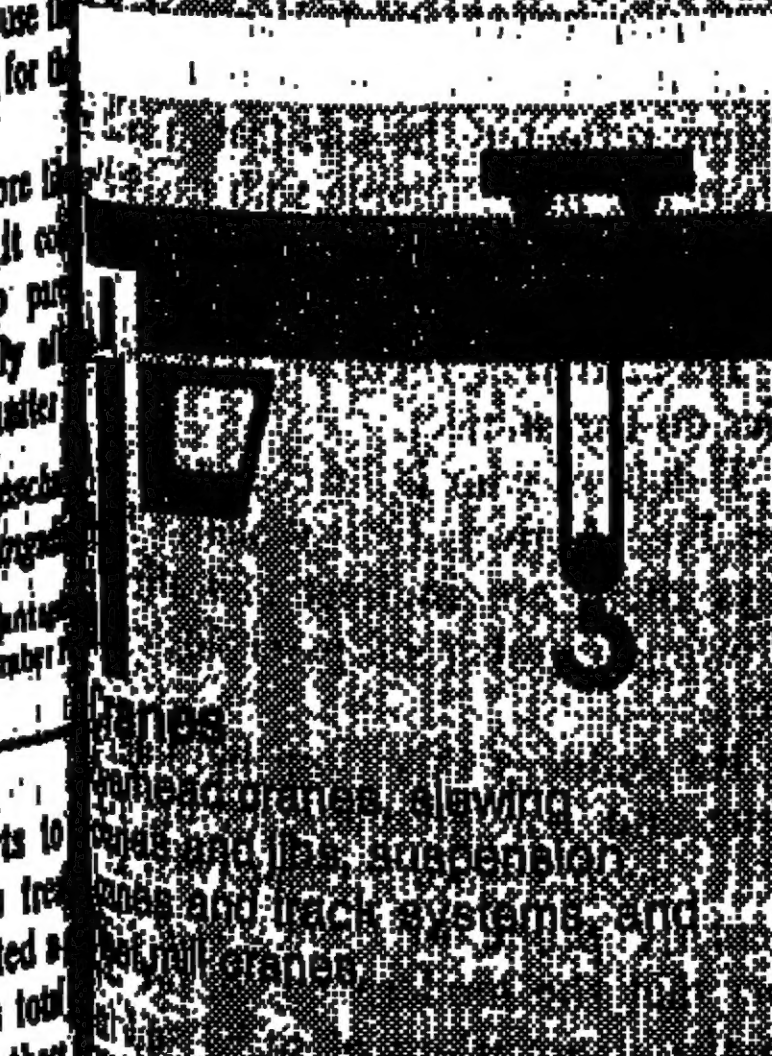
• They may act as ushers at social events.

The law makes no provision for children helping with housework. Naturally, farm families are exempted from being part of the home and in them is regarded as housework.

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Frankfurter Rundschau

Alcohol consumption in the Federal Republic of Germany is growing fast. Last year, 12.7 litres of pure alcohol was consumed per head — and that figure is averaged out over the non-drinkers like toddlers and children.

In 1950 the figure was only 3.27 litres.

There are now as many alcoholics in the country as diabetics — between 2 and 3 per cent of the population, between 1.5 and 1.8 million people.

A lot of the increase is due to women. They now drink almost as much as men.

It is a trend, similar to cigarette smoking, where women are becoming more and more like men in habit.

Women from what are called the upper social strata are especially prone.

Professor Wilhelm Feuerlein of the Max Planck Institute for Psychiatry in Munich says this because these women have either too much or too little work to do.

They don't drink socially, but only because they want to feel the effects of the alcohol as a way of solving problems. What happens, of course, is that problems only get worse.

Drink also has a physical effect if too much is consumed.

It has now been established that, given a daily consumption of 20 gram for a woman and 60 grams for a man, health is likely to suffer.

The significance of this does not become obvious until one converts grams into tots or glasses. Thus, for instance, the tolerance level for women of 20 grams of pure alcohol is reached with two tots of brandy, two-and-a-half tots of fruit-based schnapps or half a (0.7 litre) bottle of table wine; a 0.5-litre bottle of strong beer contains 21 grams of pure alcohol and a bottle of champagne 70 grams.

The public frequently pooh-poohs or suppresses the problem of alcoholism. This is partly due to the fact that many jobs hinge on alcohol in one form or another, as in the beer industry, in viticulture and in the catering industry.

The state, too, makes money on alcohol through taxes. And people who shape public opinions, such as journalists and TV personalities, are frequently sound drinkers themselves; and even doctors frequently tend to drink heavily and therefore suppress or minimise the problem.

The public's suppression mechanism have also influenced the image of the typical alcoholic.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines the alcoholic as an "excessive drinker whose dependence on alcohol has reached a degree where it impairs the mental processes and physical and mental health, affecting person-to-person relations and interfering with a person's social and economic functions."

Apart from the proven detrimental effects of alcohol on the liver, researchers have found additional damage.

It has for some time been known, for instance, that alcohol promotes the transformation of potentially carcinogenic agents. This makes it obvious that simultaneous consumption of alcohol and smoking increase the risk of lung cancer.

The functioning of male sex organs can also be impaired by alcohol, which can lead to a loss of libido, reduced fertility and a gradual feminisation of secondary sex organs. Sperm secretion can also be adversely affected.

Professor Feuerlein calls for higher taxes on all alcohol — and not only on spirits and champagne. Beer and wine, he maintains, should be taxed according to their alcohol content.

"The tax should be high enough to make alcoholic beverages considerably more expensive and thus reduce consumption. Denmark, Canada and a number of other countries have proved that this is feasible."

According to recent findings, virtually all disorders due to alcohol can be cured or greatly improved by total abstinence.

Ladislav Kuthy

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 September 1981)

Exploitation of child labour

Continued from page 12

means that the law equates drying dishes with mucking out a stable.

This month the Federal Institute for Labour Protection and Accident Research organises a show on "Child Labour Today and in the Past".

The show will deal, among other things, with the question whether com-

petitive sport is to be seen in the same light as work in advertising or on the family farm.

Gernot Krankenhagen, the organiser of the show to be presented in Dortmund, has a clear answer to this question: Yes.

As a result, he wants something done about it. In addition, adults are to be told of the dangers of child labour and the stress that goes with it.

Though Krankenhagen admits that things have improved and that no child has to work eight hours on a factory floor, as happened in the 1920s, he stresses that the known violations of child labour laws are only the tip of the iceberg.

It will never be known how many children do piecework at home. But as some 300,000 people do such work, ranging from shrimp peeling in the north to wood carving in Bavaria, it is likely that many children are involved.

Large families and low incomes are still one of the main reasons for child labour, says Wilken.

But the North Rhine-Westphalia Labour Ministry differs with this interpretation, saying that the social security system is "so good" that no child has to work to support the family — unless the family wants a new colour TV or a stereo set.

Rainer Strang

(Rheinische Post, 3 September 1981)

The bitter side of the pill: side effects

The pill, which is still the most reliable contraceptive, can cause side effects, especially to skin and hair.

Some side effects are harmless but others are dangerous. Professor Hansotto Zaun, medical director of the Hamburg University Hospital, told a therapy congress in Karlsruhe.

In secreting fat and sweat or forming pigments and growing hair, the skin is subject to the steering mechanisms of sex hormones.

If these mechanisms are impaired by additional hormones (like the synthetic ones contained in the pill) the skin, a vital organ, reacts with alarm signals.

Pill-induced changes and discolourations of the skin resemble those some women experience just prior to giving birth.

Thus, for instance, the facial skin frequently darkens due to increased deposits of the pigment melanin. This occurs in one out of five women who are on the pill.

This darkening of the skin has no pathological significance. Yet, many women are so disturbed by it that they prefer to discontinue the pill.

These skin blemishes are attributed to the synthetic hormones oestrogen and gestagen, though it is still unknown how they interact with bodily functions.

But dosage and duration of the hormone intake can be clearly determined from the conditions of the skin and the hair, regardless of the type of hormone used.

Such side effects as inflammation of the veins, for instance, diminished by one-quarter after the oestrogen content of the pill was reduced.

Most gestagens used in oral contracep-

tives, are derivatives of the male hormone 19-nor-testosterone.

These substances have a masculinising effect. They can cause acne and growth of body hair or sometimes hair loss.

Professor Zaun suggested that women were not only harmless side effects of the pill. Others are acutely dangerous.

One of these is livedo racemosa, a skin disease caused by inflamed arteries. The condition is aggravated by heavy smoking when it can damage the blood vessels of the brain and even cause a stroke. A disorder must be taken seriously and warning symptoms.

Women who are particularly sensitive to light occasionally suffer from the fly-shaped red spots in the face, other discolourations or pustules.

Another common complaint is fungal infection in the genital region which said to occur in one out of three women who are on the pill.

Shingles contracted during pregnancy can recur as a result of the oestrogen intake.

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 4 September 1981)

Rise in minor mental disturbances

Three per cent of the world's population have psychological problems serious enough to need treatment, according to World Health Organisation figures.

In the Federal Republic of Germany one person in every 10 who sees a doctor suffers from depression.

These were some of the statistics to emerge from a therapy congress in Karlsruhe.

Berlin psychiatrist Manfred Hildebrandt said it was not known if the figures reflected the fact that in real life there are more people with psychological problems or simply that more people go to doctors.

He said that there are no exact statistics on the subject.

Helchen, who is in charge of the Lin Free University Psychiatric Hospital, says there are indirect indications of a growing number of psychological disorders.

He deduces this from the number of drug and narcotic addicts, the number of older people among them (who are particularly prone to depression) and the fact that the modern way of life has led to the dismantling of social and family relations.

Tranquillisers, he told the congress, ranged among the most frequently prescribed drugs. Sales to outpatients alone amounted to about DM10 billion in 1979.

He criticised the prescriptions for minor reasons as examination jitter.

A Swiss-based Committee for the Prevention and Therapy of Depressive Disorders is now trying to compile statistics on the disorder and promote treatment.

The congress, attended by more than 10,000 doctors, dealt with a wide range of subjects, among them the use of genetic counselling and diagnostic therapy of cardiovascular disorders.

(Die Welt, 5 September 1981)

Magic two metres still aim of high jumper Ulrike

West German win an event in the Cup final in Rome was Ulrike Meyfarth, who cleared 1.98 metres to set a new world record.

Meyfarth has always been a tall and slender athlete. At the height of the high jump bar has been a problem in her life than height. "At times I really had a hard time about it," she says.

Height particularly embarrassed her in my mother's house, with a despair, how I would ever get myself a husband."

She now has two men in her life. Her boyfriend, who lives with her in Cologne, is a sports teacher and able to help her in her sporting life.

Whether it is her coach, Gerd Rosenberg, or her boyfriend, who coached track star Rosendahl to stardom. For the last few years he has helped to shape Meyfarth's career.

Initially, she says, thinking back to when she won the Olympic high jump medal at 16, "we were all excited to do too much in those days."

September 1972, with the child that is the privilege of a teen-

ager, she not only won Olympic gold at Munich but also set a new world record of 1.92 metres.

All Germany watched her on the TV screen and held its breath until her Fosbury flop was crowned with success. But it was not long before she had to face failure.

She had trouble clearing 1.80 metres. Officials, coaches and fans were at a loss to account for her abysmal form. She failed to recover from a fractured foot and a spell of bad luck.

"At one stage," she recalls, "I was even turfed out of the national squad and no longer qualified for a Sports Aid Foundation grant."

Four years after Munich she failed to qualify for the preliminary heats in Montreal and came a cropper in private life.

She failed to qualify for enrolment at the Sports Academy in Cologne. Olympic gold and top marks in sport were not enough for a university career, she was told.

But now she is jumping higher than ever before. "I've grown faster," she says, adding after a while "and more mature, more experienced, more disciplined. And more secure."

It was Rosenberg, her coach, who gave her this security. "Women need a sta-

ble to delve more deeply into the subject herself too.

She is working on a Cologne thesis entitled Motivating and Training Young People Approaching Adulthood.

Again, she should know. She should be able to tell a tale or two on the strength of her personal experience.

She has no plans to retire yet. "Sport gives me self-assurance," she admits, "and you never know whether you might not be able to improve a little more on your personal best."

She would obviously love to clear two metres, no matter how much hard work it may entail, and as World Cup winner at Rome she can feel much more sure of herself.

Indeed, she may find it easier to jump two metres than to retire from athletics when the time comes. Wolf Günther

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7 September 1981)

Kolbe takes world single sculls title in nerves-of-steel race

15 years, it was his career's worst showing yet. He was unusually harsh in his criticism.

"We have all made mistakes," he said. "We shall have to analyse them. The failure of coaching staff and oarsmen is sure to have consequences."

"Not enough work has been put in this year, and certainly not the right work. The only exceptions have been Kolbe, the eights and the double fours — in that order."

Kolbe showed nerves of steel when he was warned by the starter for warming up in his lane, which is prohibited. If he had then been faulted for jumping the gun, it would have been curtains.

So he held his fire, and the noise of the starter's pistol was blowing in the wind before he got off to a cautious start.

The headwind made the water choppy, which was far from ideal for his new boat, with its fixed seat and moving outrigger design, because it has no washboard to keep the waves at bay.

So Rüdiger Reiche from Potsdam in the GDR made the initial running, but Kolbe had beaten Reiche twice before, in the 1978 and 1979 world championships.

Kolbe's yellow skiff steadily gained ground, ploughing through the water as if he were being pulled on a piece of string.

He had drawn level with Reiche after a mere 300 metres, and by 500 metres he was clearly leading the field.

But he chose to err on the side of caution rather than fade as he had done in the finals at Montreal five years before.

Kolbe has grown older, wiser and more level-headed. He preferred to conserve every last ounce of energy it was not essential to give.

He kept an eye on Reiche, who limited himself to a few despairing bids to shorten the distance between them and eventually had to concentrate on making sure of the silver medal.

John Biglow of the United States challenged Kolbe from third place, but this was the only time in which they passed the pole.

Not a bad result for a man who had been so much of a chance. They were

dying influence," she says, "and now I feel I get on fine with him. He knows me well too." Her now coach gave her fresh pleasure from her athletics and between them they gave it another try. She feels that the Munich Olympics were a childhood experience. Athletics then was a compensation because she was not a great hit with boys. Now she has outgrown that. She has learnt. At the academy she came to realise that she was able to emerge from spells of depression stronger each time.

And she reckons her good seasons have been at intervals of three years. She jumped well in 1972, 1975, 1978 and 1981.

"Mentally too," she says, "everything has to be just right for an athlete, and it is much more important for women than for men."

She should know, having been through ups and downs in sport for the past nine years. This season she has been the most consistent woman high jumper in the world.

"I know any number of people who have retired before their time," she says. More attention should be paid to girls of 14 to 18, who are particularly likely to quit athletics.

These are her words of advice to amateur athletics officials, and she intends

to delve more deeply into the subject herself too.

She is working on a Cologne thesis entitled Motivating and Training Young People Approaching Adulthood.

Again, she should know. She should be able to tell a tale or two on the strength of her personal experience.

She has no plans to retire yet. "Sport gives me self-assurance," she admits, "and you never know whether you might not be able to improve a little more on your personal best."

She would obviously love to clear two metres, no matter how much hard work it may entail, and as World Cup winner at Rome she can feel much more sure of herself.

Indeed, she may find it easier to jump two metres than to retire from athletics when the time comes. Wolf Günther

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7 September 1981)



Ulrike Meyfarth... a complex no more. (Photo: dpa)

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(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 7 September 1981)

Bailieu of Britain, Isara of Argentina and Alexander of New Zealand.

Despite the 25,000 Munich fans and their vocal support Kolbe preferred not to risk a spectacular finish and remained very much his old self.

But when Thomas Keller, president of the International Rowing Federation, presented him with the gold medal his eyes welled with tears of joy nonetheless.

He had shown himself for the fourth time to be the world's best single sculls man, first in the 1973 European Open championships, then in the 1975 and 1978 world championships.

Officials were meanwhile debating whether his new boat design ought not to be banned. It was, some argued, a further technical perfection to the detriment of poorer member-countries of the international body.

Maybe it was just sour grapes. Kolbe himself said: "The idea is a century old, but nothing has been done about the design in the past because it has always had technical shortcomings."

"So why should my boat be banned? It works and is no more expensive than a conventional model."

What about his retirement plans? He is undecided: "After major races in the past I have been a little overhasty in saying I was going to retire."

"This time I am saying nothing. I'll think it over."

So he should; there is still one trophy missing in his collection: an Olympic gold medal that would ensure him a place in the oarsmen's hall of fame.

In the Munich world championships Kolbe looked so good that at Los Angeles in three years' time, when he will be 31, he might well make his dream of Olympic gold come true.

Martiz von Groddeck

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 7 September 1981)

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